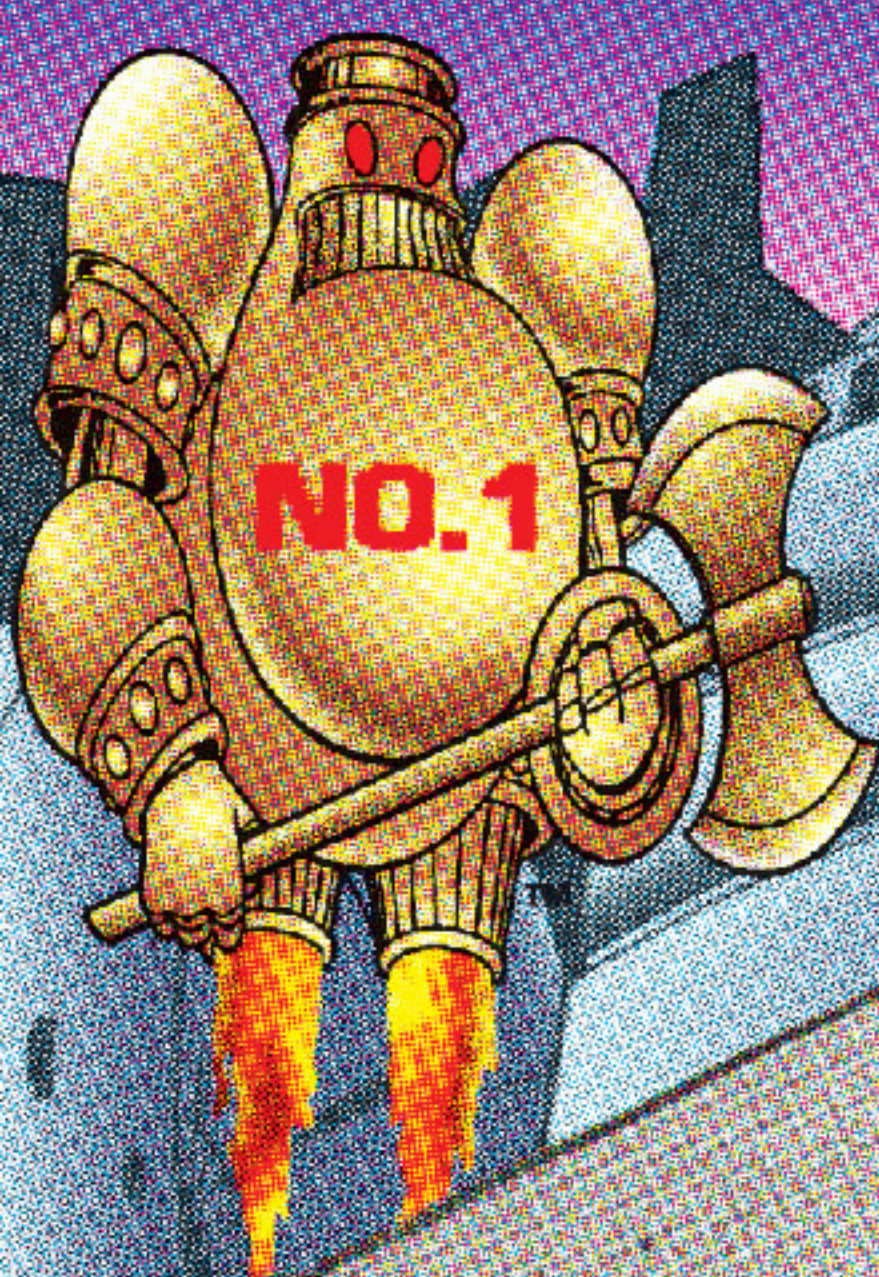


Archie  
ADVENTURE  
SERIES

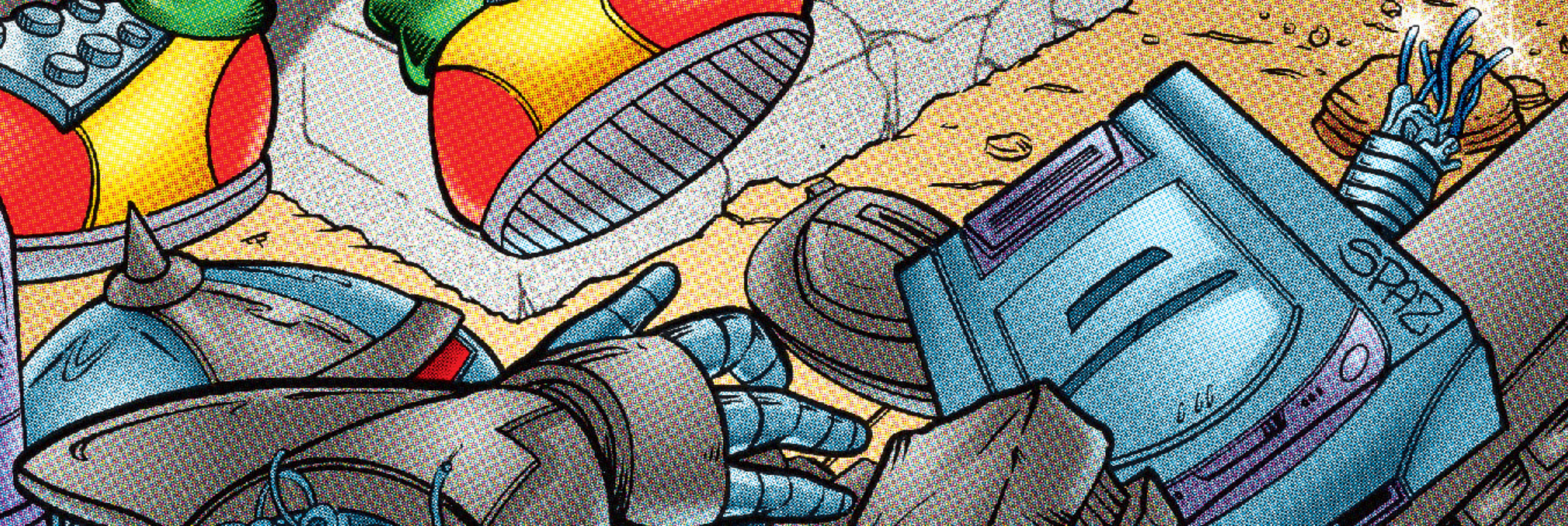
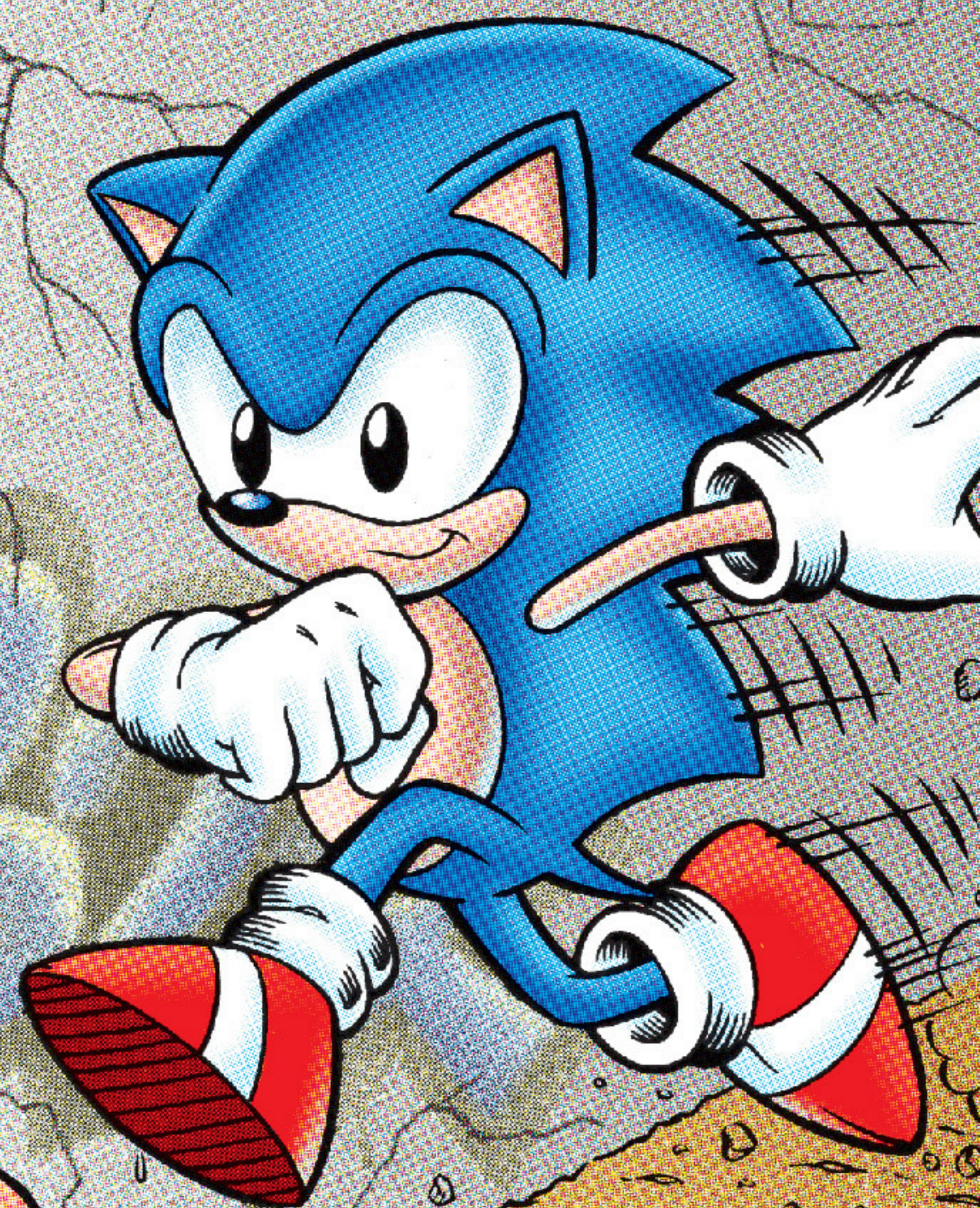


# SONIC & KNUCKLES™

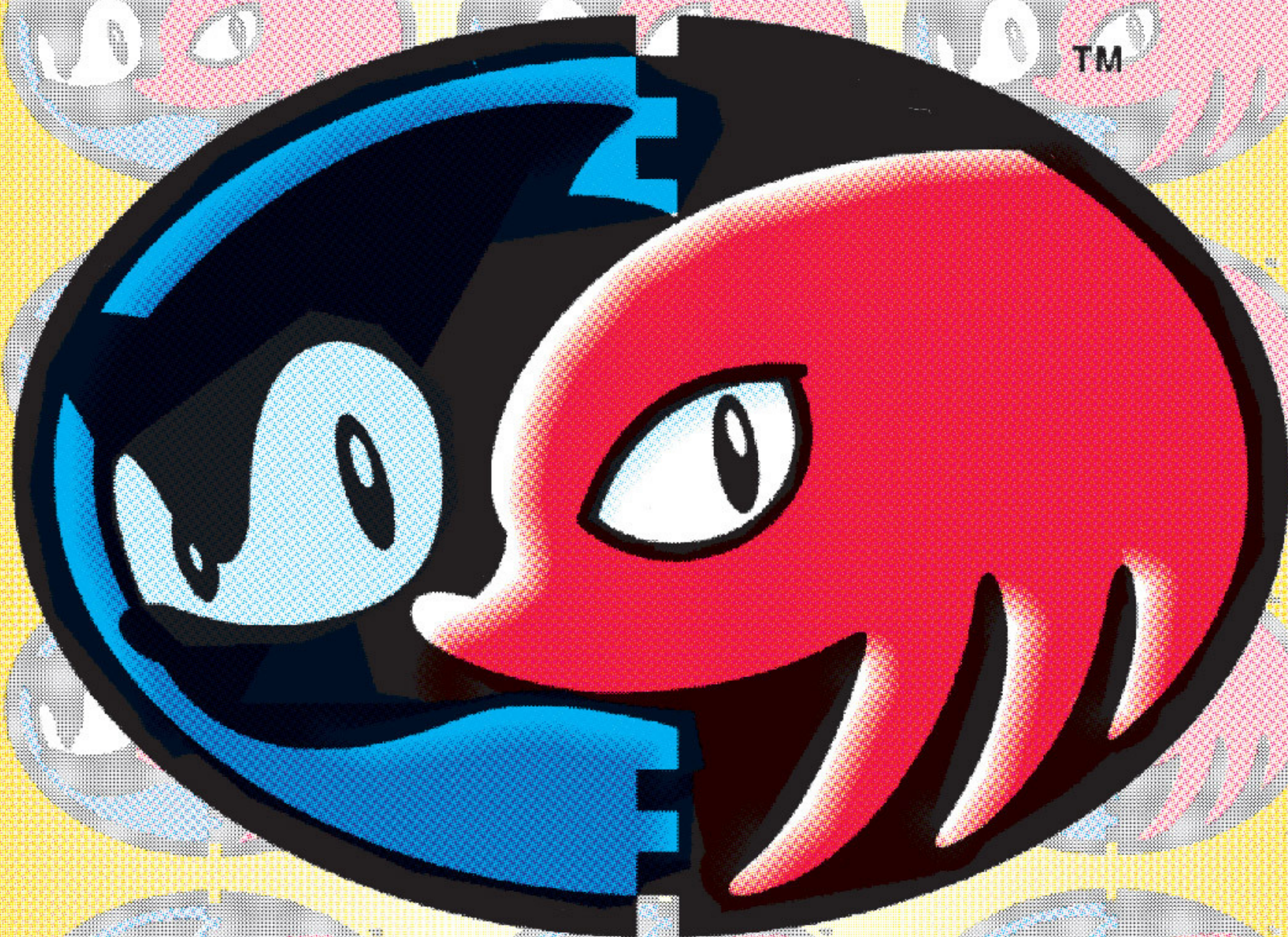
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



SPRINT







# SONIC & KNUCKLES

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### **"PANIC IN THE SKY!"**

*Script:*

**Mike Kanterovich  
& Ken Penders**

*Penciling Chapter One:*

**Art Mawhinney**

*Penciling Chapter Two:*

**Dave Manak**

*Inking:*

**Rich Koslowski**

*Lettering:*

**Mindy Eisman**

*Coloring:*

**Barry Grossman**

### **"FIRE DRILL"**

*Script & Penciling:*

**Ken Penders**

*Inking:*

**Jon D'Agostino**

*Lettering:*

**Bill Yoshida**

*Coloring:*

**Freddy Mendez**

### **"LORD OF THE FLOATING ISLAND"**

*Script:*

**Ken Penders**

*Penciling & Inking:*

**Harvey Mercadoocasio**

*Lettering:* **Bill Yoshida**

*Coloring:* **Freddy Mendez**

*Cover Art:*

**Patrick Spaziante  
& Harvey Mercadoocasio**

*Cover Colors:*

**Heroic Age Colors**

*Editor:*

**Scott Fulop**

*Managing Editor:*

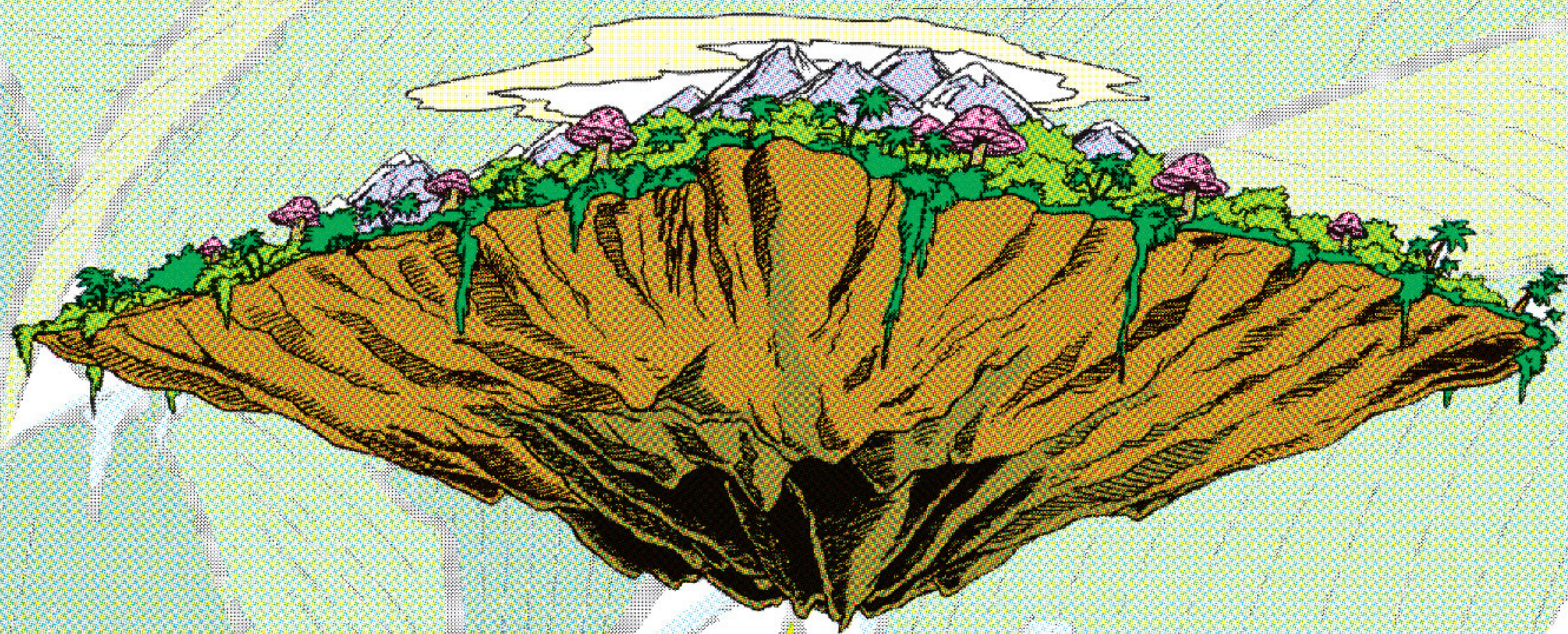
**Victor Gorelick**

*Editor In Chief:*

**Richard Goldwater**

**SPECIAL THANKS to Jennifer Hunn at Sega**





**A** land once renowned for its great beauty, the planet **Mobius** is well on its way to becoming a scarred, lifeless battlefield, thanks to the relentless acts of scientific terrorism unleashed by the evil Techno-Tyrant, **Dr. Ivo Robotnik**.

In this once-serene plane, only one great natural wonder remains untouched by this utter devastation: the mysterious **Floating Island**. A mighty continent, the island is held aloft by the energy of a rare and powerful gem known as a **Chaos Emerald**. A world unto itself with its origins lost to antiquity, this sprawling multi-zoned land mass drifts lazily above the face of Mobius, existing in harmony, yet forever apart.

As enigmatic as the Floating Island is its guardian, **Knuckles The Echidna**. Last of an ancient, noble race, his charge is to preserve the peace, and protect the island's boundaries from the encroachment and harsh realities of the "outside world" -- a task handed down generation unto generation.

Recently host to a great battle between Dr. Robotnik and the spearhead of **Knothole Village's** resistance, **Sonic The Hedgehog**, the Floating Island again stands alone as a safe haven from the war that rages unchecked, below.

But for how long?





PROLOGUE:

THE WESTERN COAST OF  
THE GREAT CONTINENT.

12:17 PM

THOUGH PRONE TO EARTH-  
QUAKES, MUDSLIDES, FIRES  
AND FLOODS...

... IT REMAINS ONE OF THE FEW  
REGIONS ON MOBIUS TO REMAIN  
UNSCARRED BY CONFLICT!

HERE, THE NATIVES CAN FROLIC  
AND ROMP WITHOUT CARE!

OR AT LEAST  
THEY COULD...

WHAP!



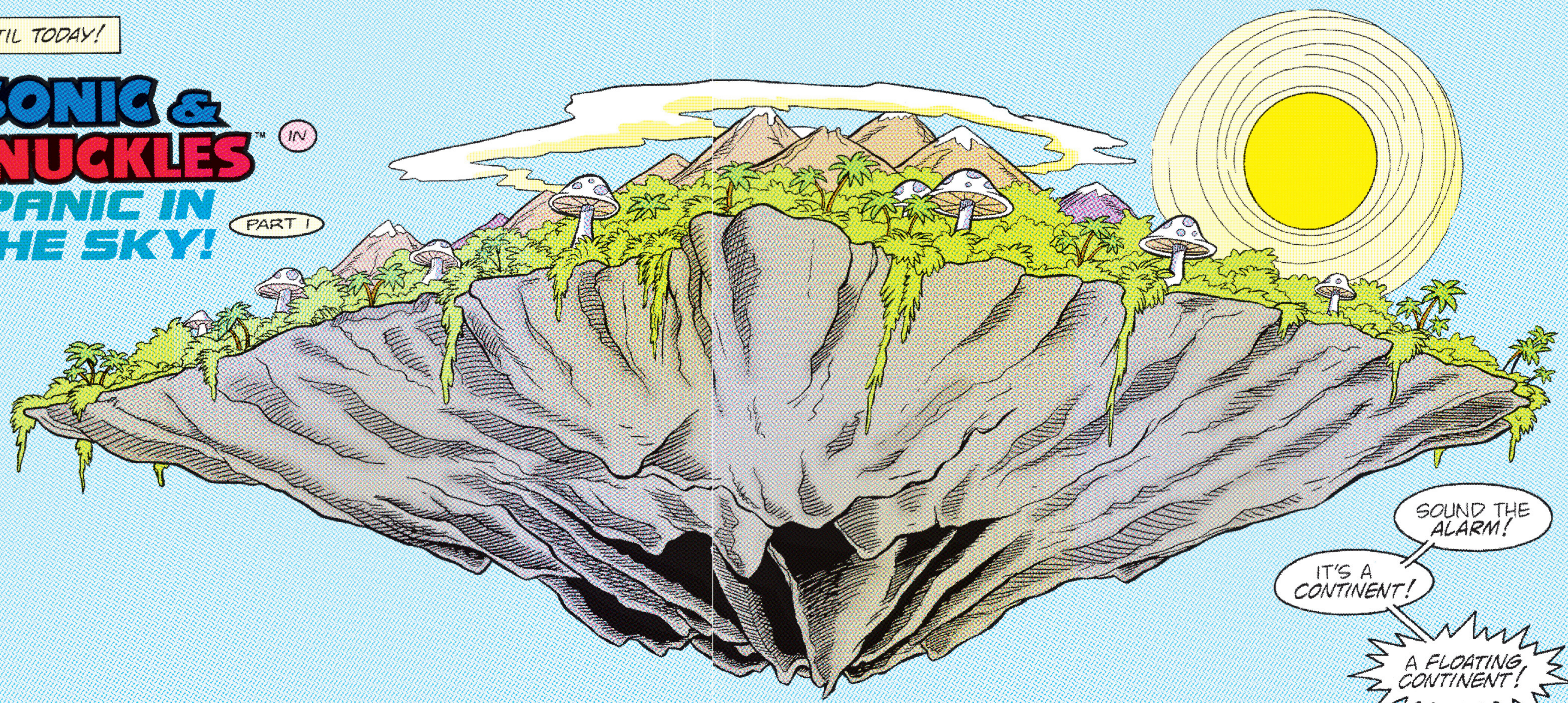
...UNTIL TODAY!

# SONIC & KNUCKLES™

IN

## PANIC IN THE SKY!

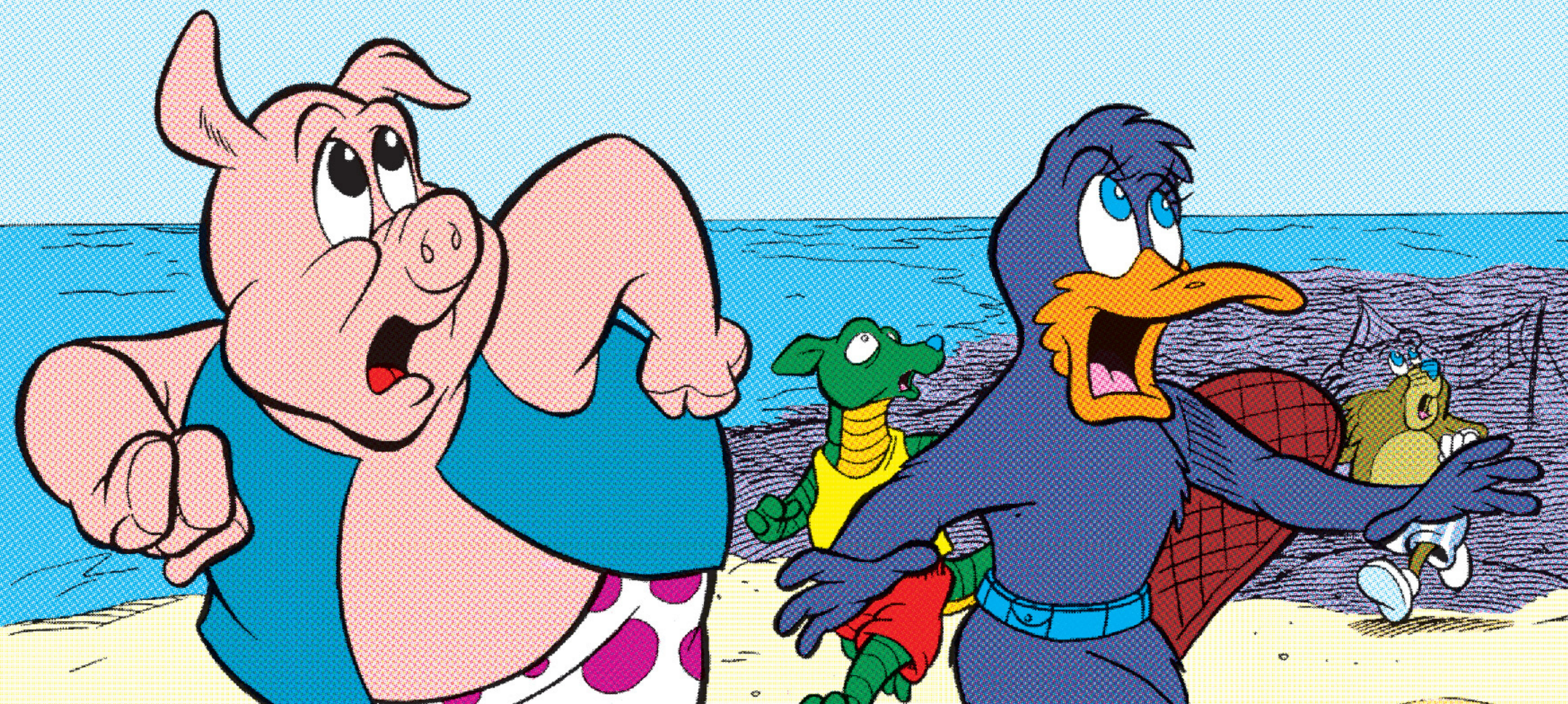
PART I



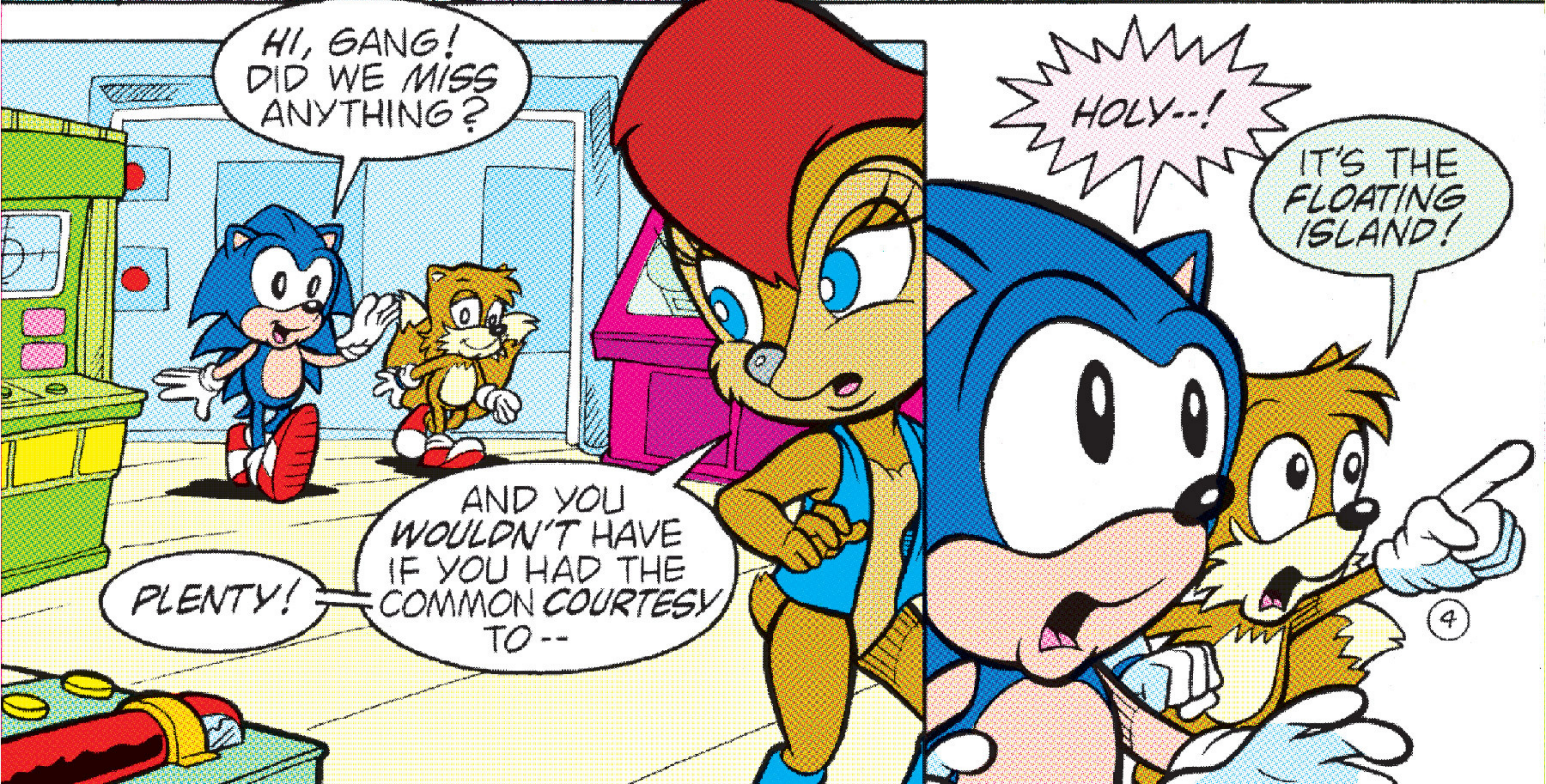
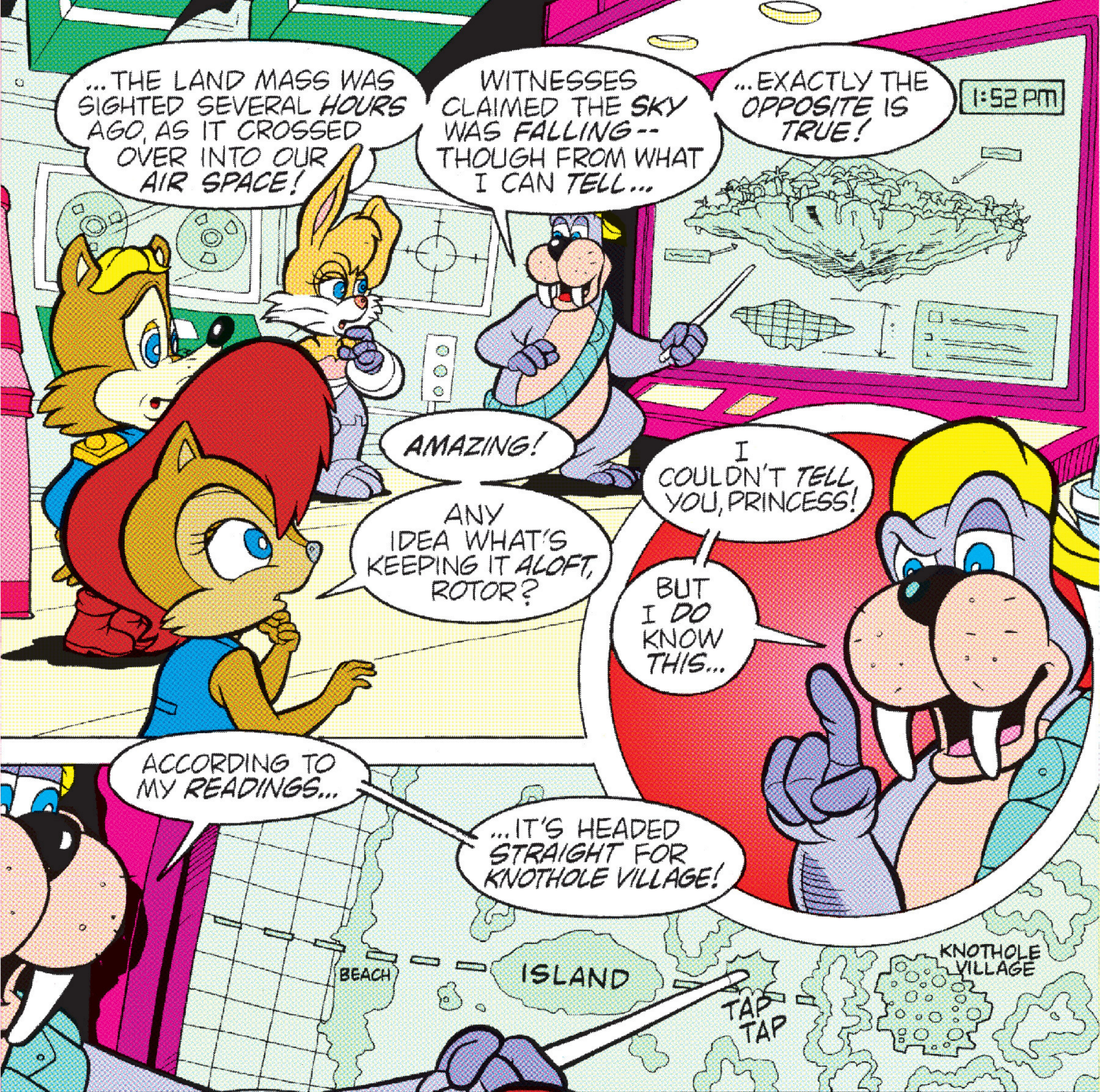
SOUND THE ALARM!

IT'S A CONTINENT!

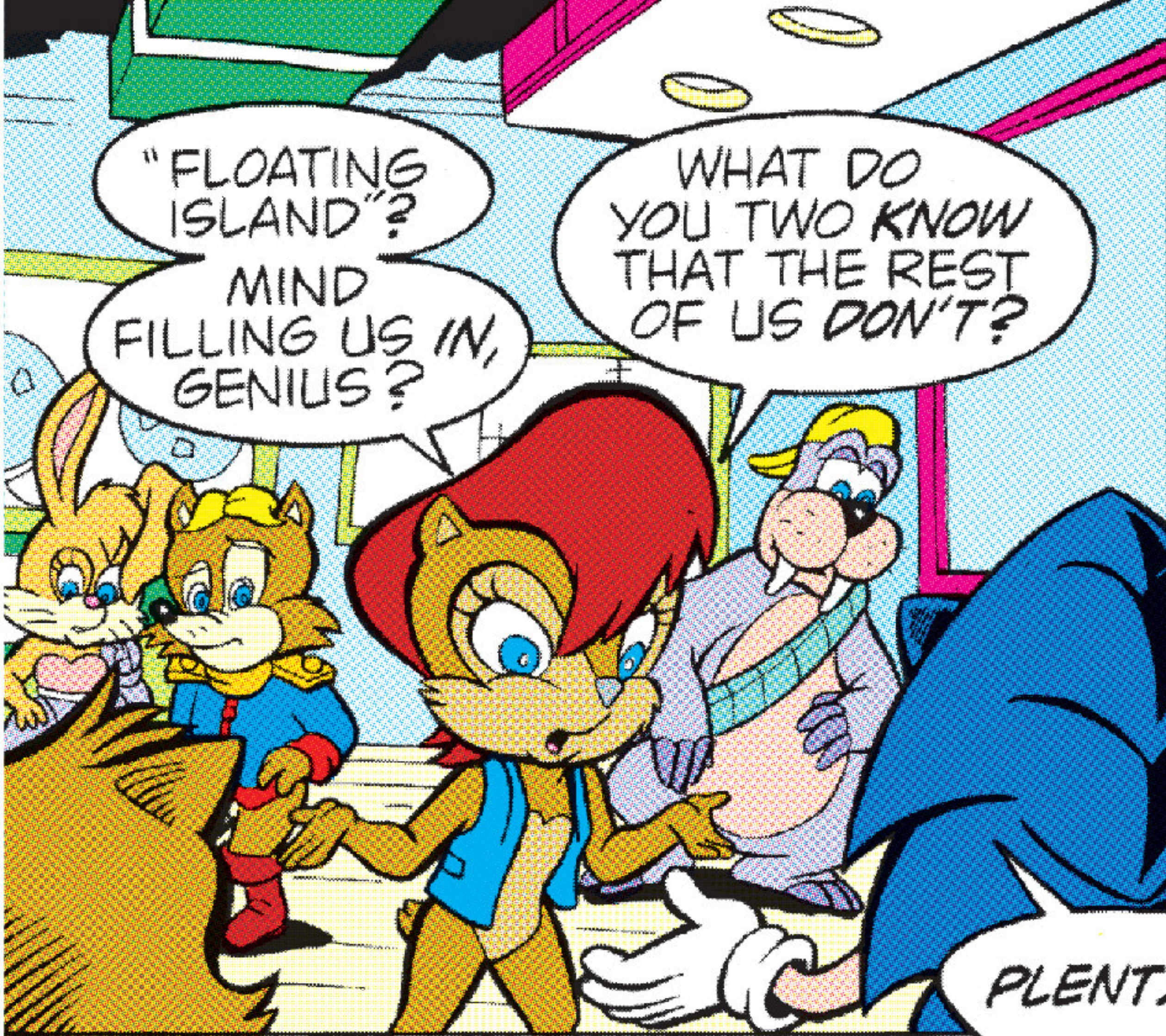
A FLOATING CONTINENT!







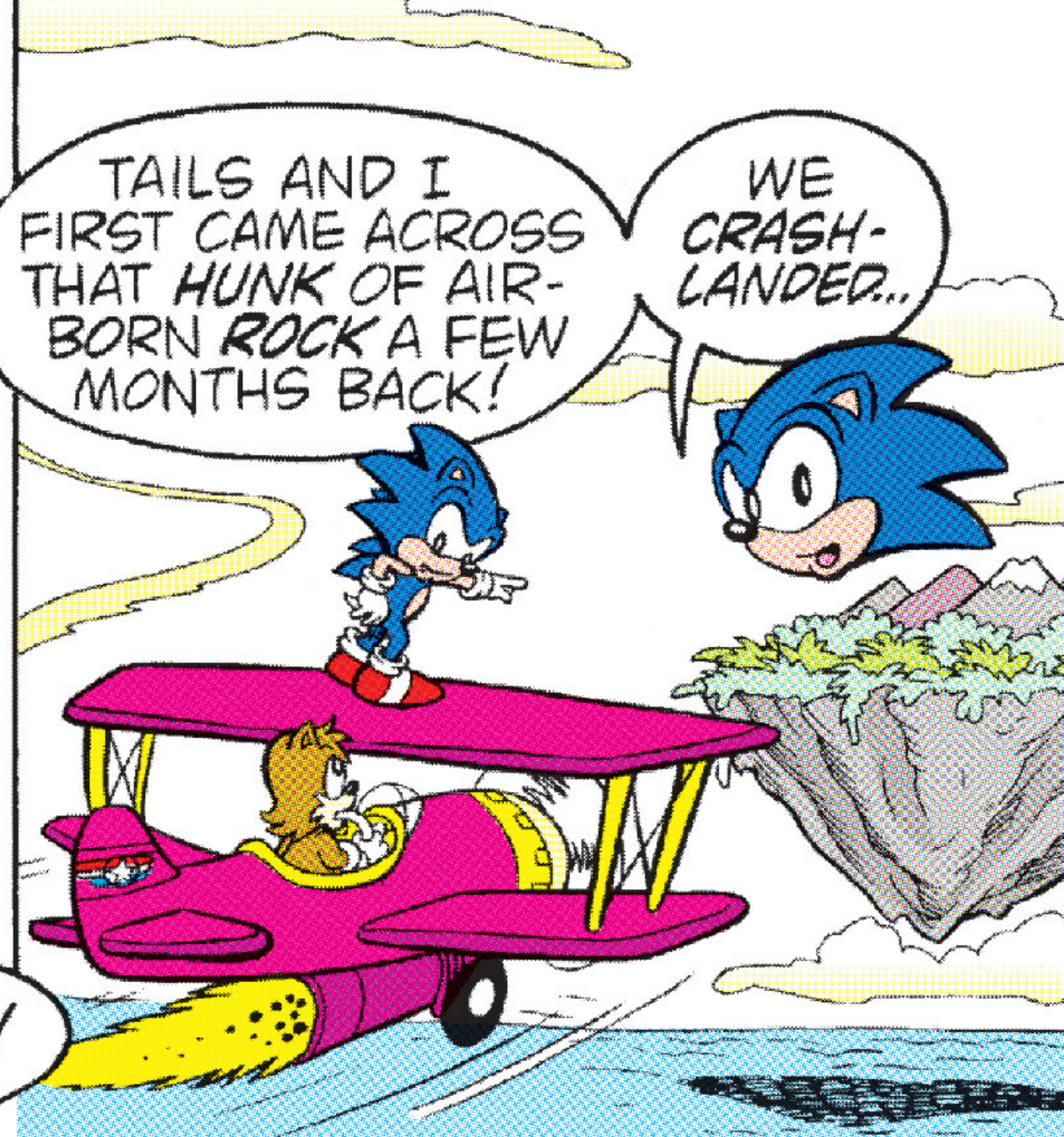




"FLOATING ISLAND"?  
MIND FILLING US IN, GENIUS?

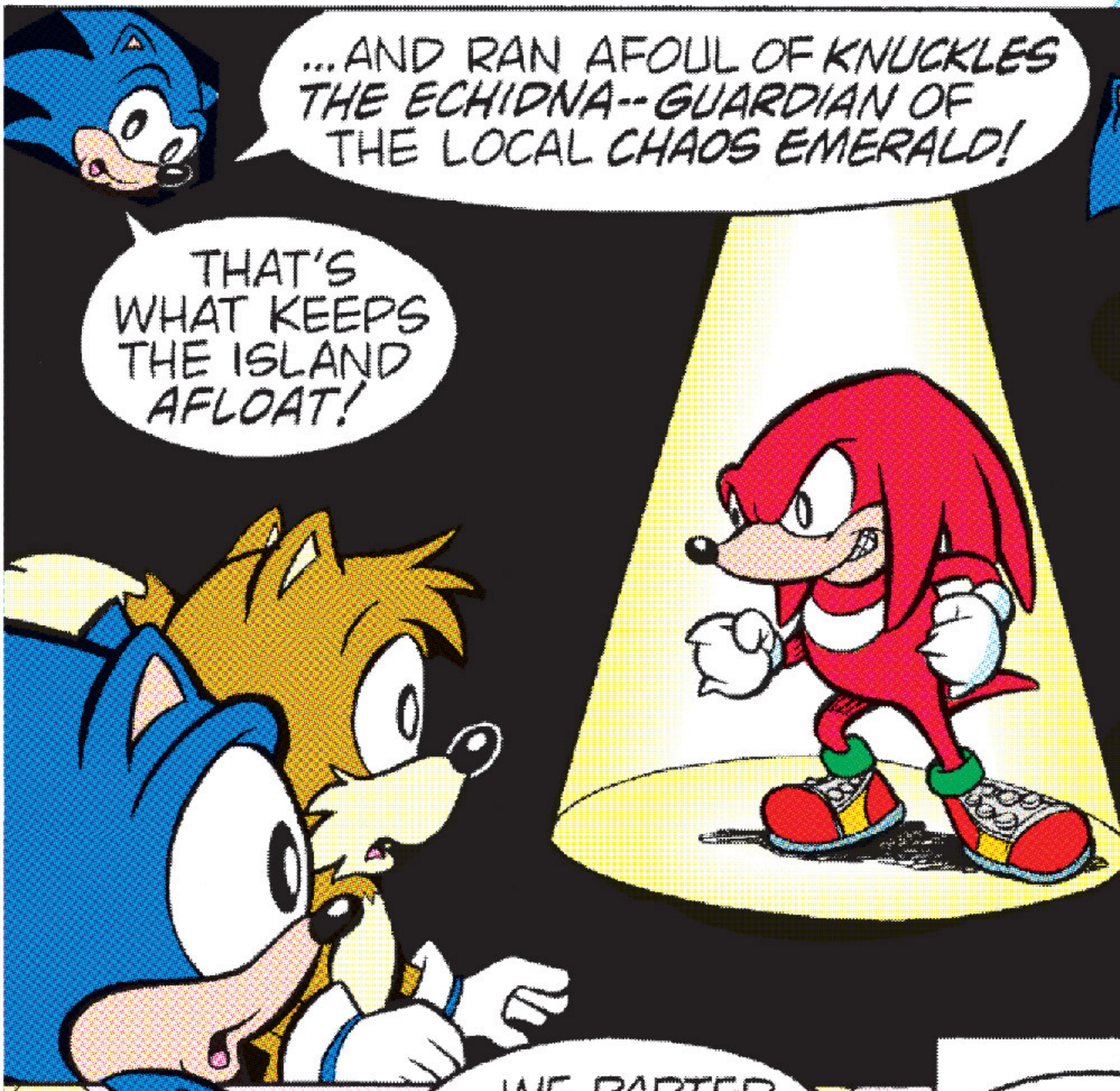
WHAT DO YOU TWO KNOW THAT THE REST OF US DON'T?

PLENTY!



TAILS AND I FIRST CAME ACROSS THAT HUNK OF AIR-BORN ROCK A FEW MONTHS BACK!

WE CRASH-LANDED...



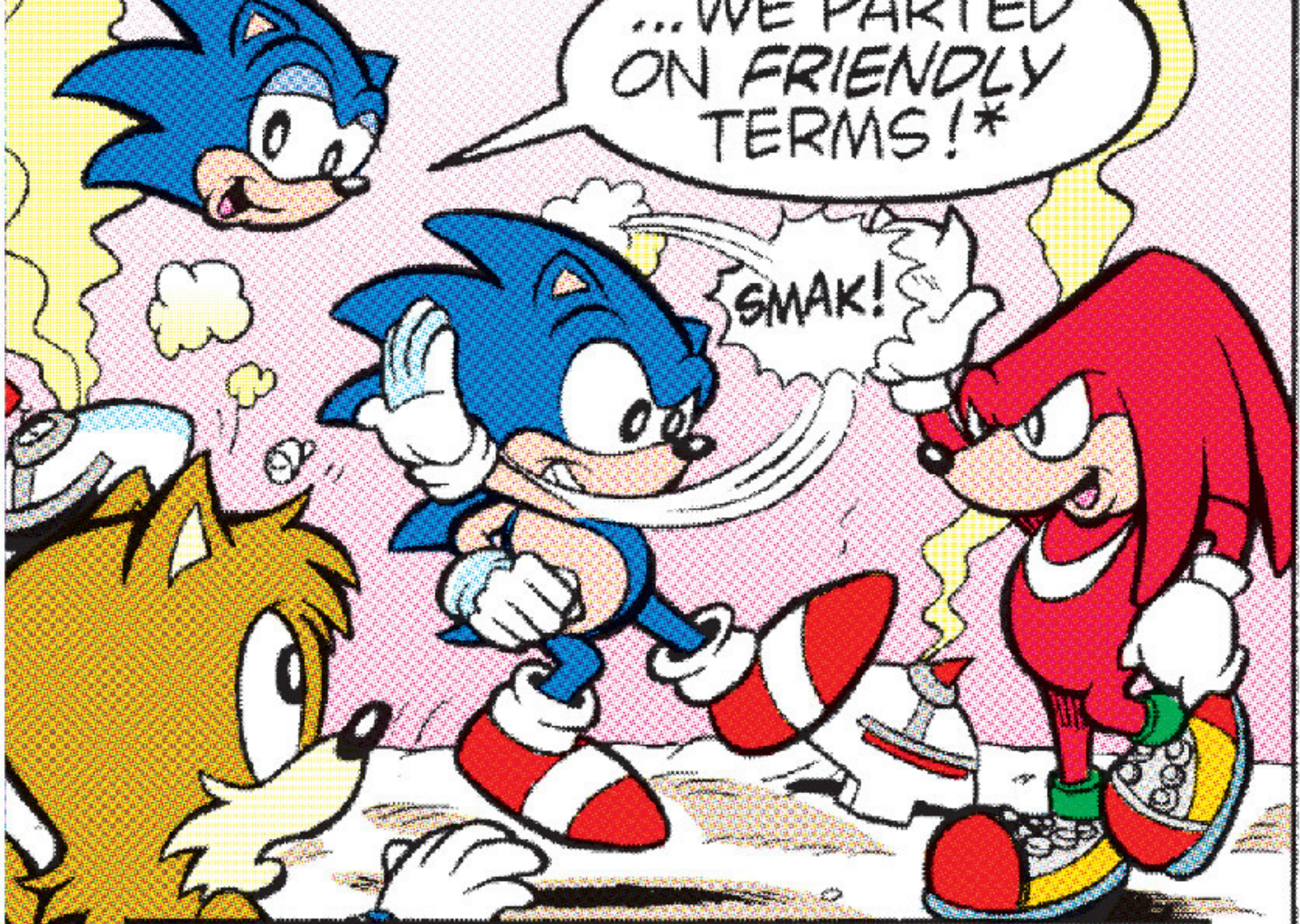
...AND RAN AFOWL OF KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA--GUARDIAN OF THE LOCAL CHAOS EMERALD!

THAT'S WHAT KEEPS THE ISLAND AFLOAT!



TO PUT IT MILDLY, HE TOOK AN IMMEDIATE AND PROFOUND DISLIKE TO US!

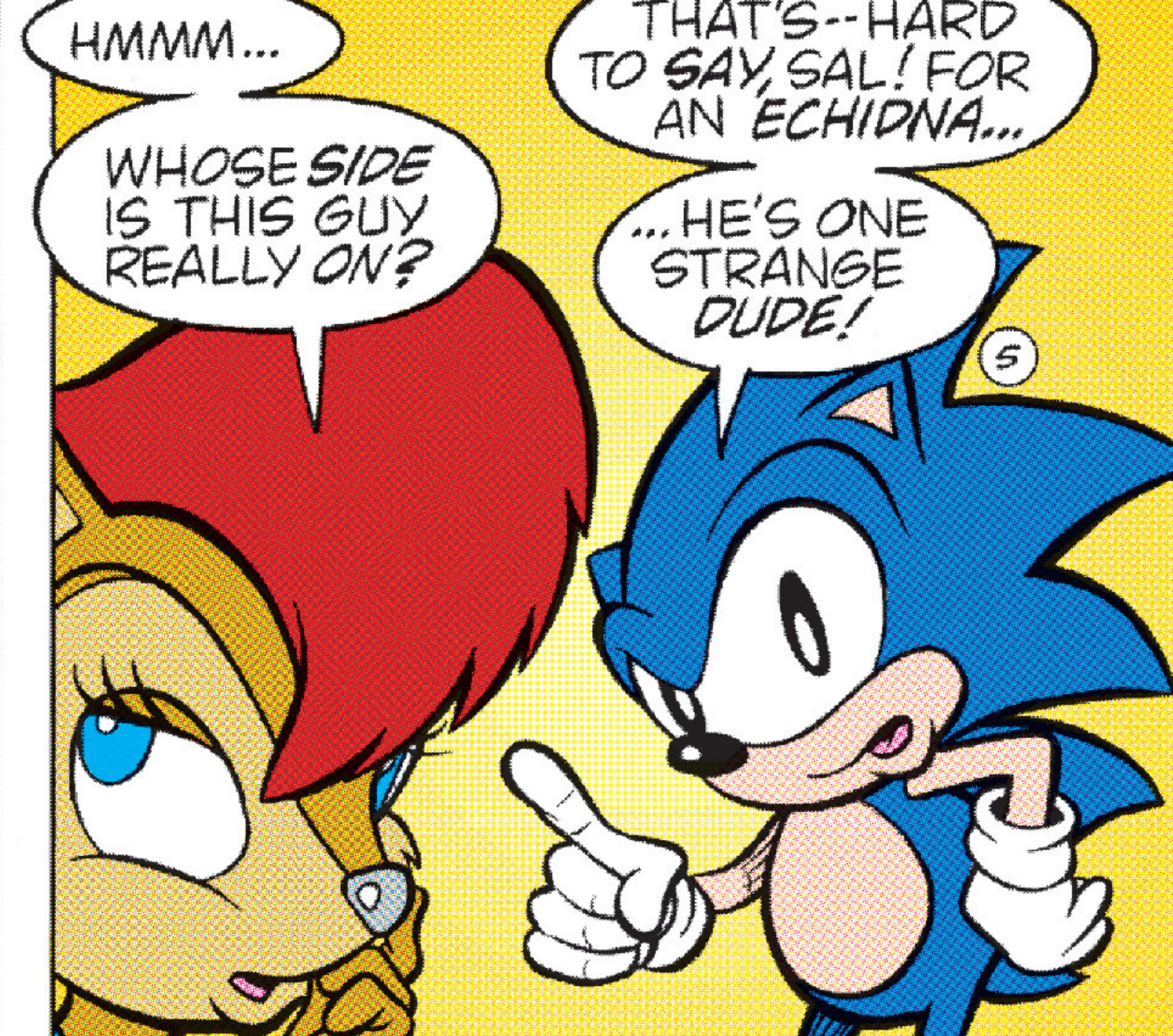
BUT-- AFTER WE'D HASHED THINGS OUT A BIT...



...WE PARTED ON FRIENDLY TERMS!\*

SMACK!

\*REFER TO THE NOW CLASSIC SONIC #13, "THIS ISLAND HEDGE-HOG," FOR THE FULL STORY--SCOTT



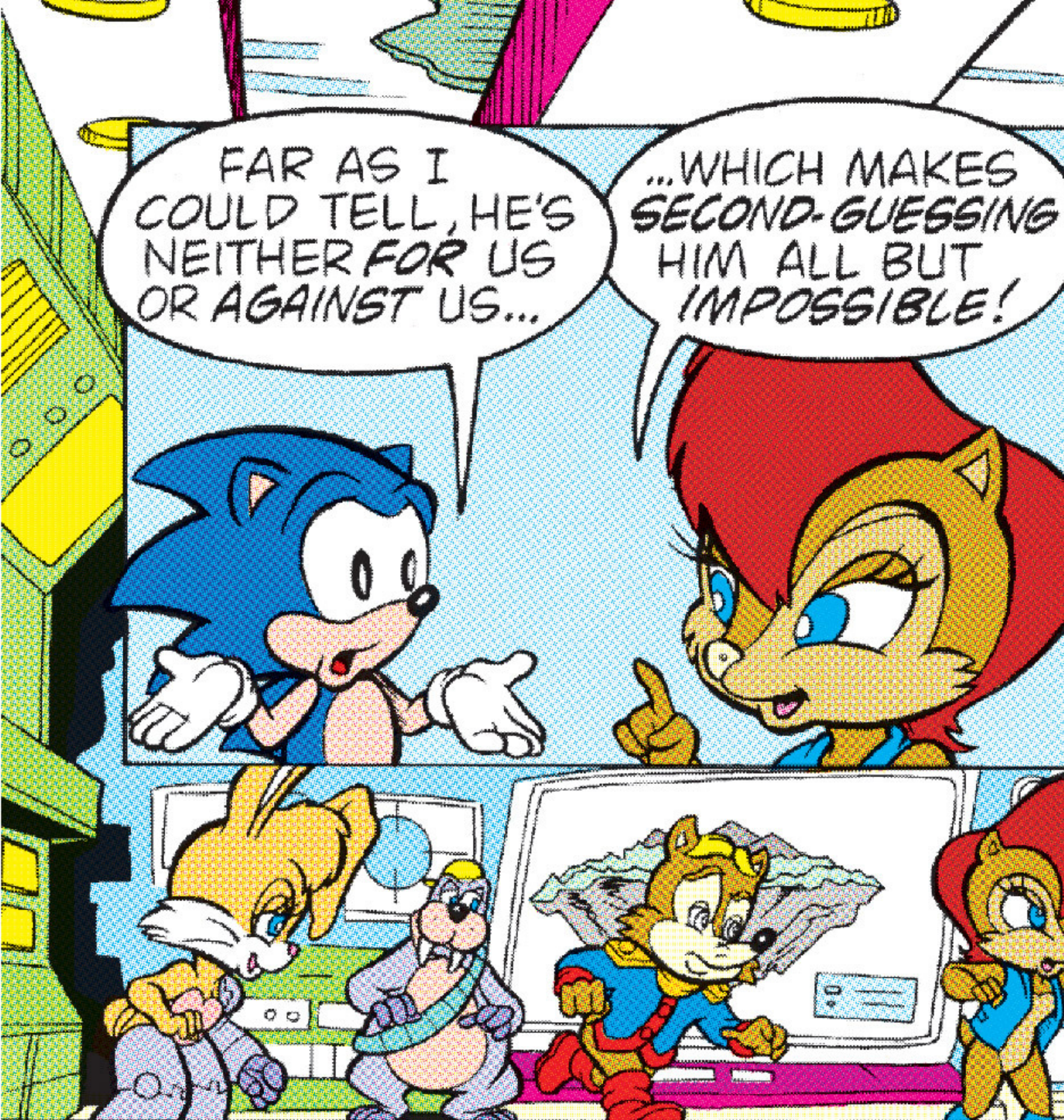
HMMM...

WHOSE SIDE IS THIS GUY REALLY ON?

THAT'S--HARD TO SAY, SAL! FOR AN ECHIDNA...

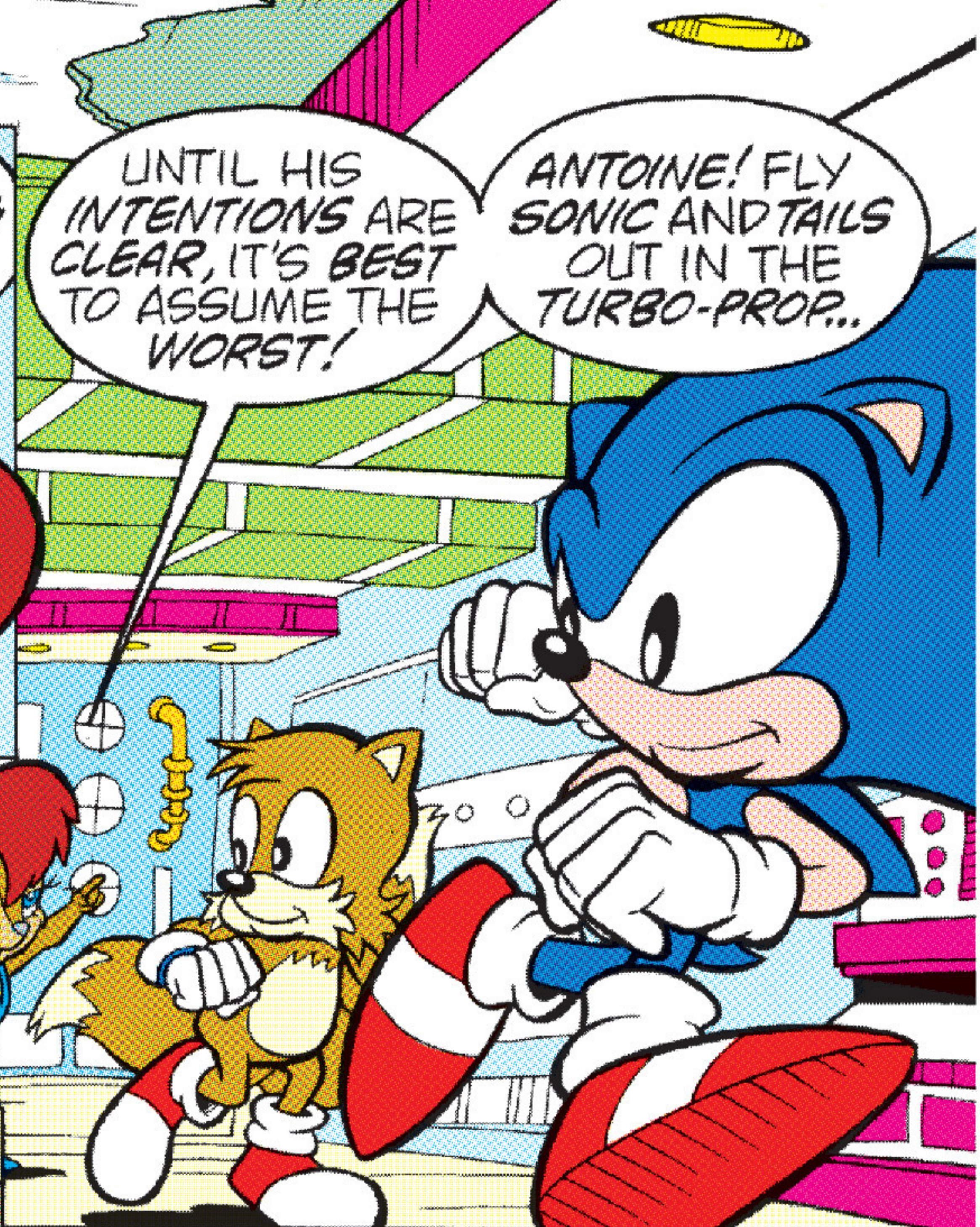
...HE'S ONE STRANGE DUDE!





FAR AS I COULD TELL, HE'S NEITHER FOR US OR AGAINST US...

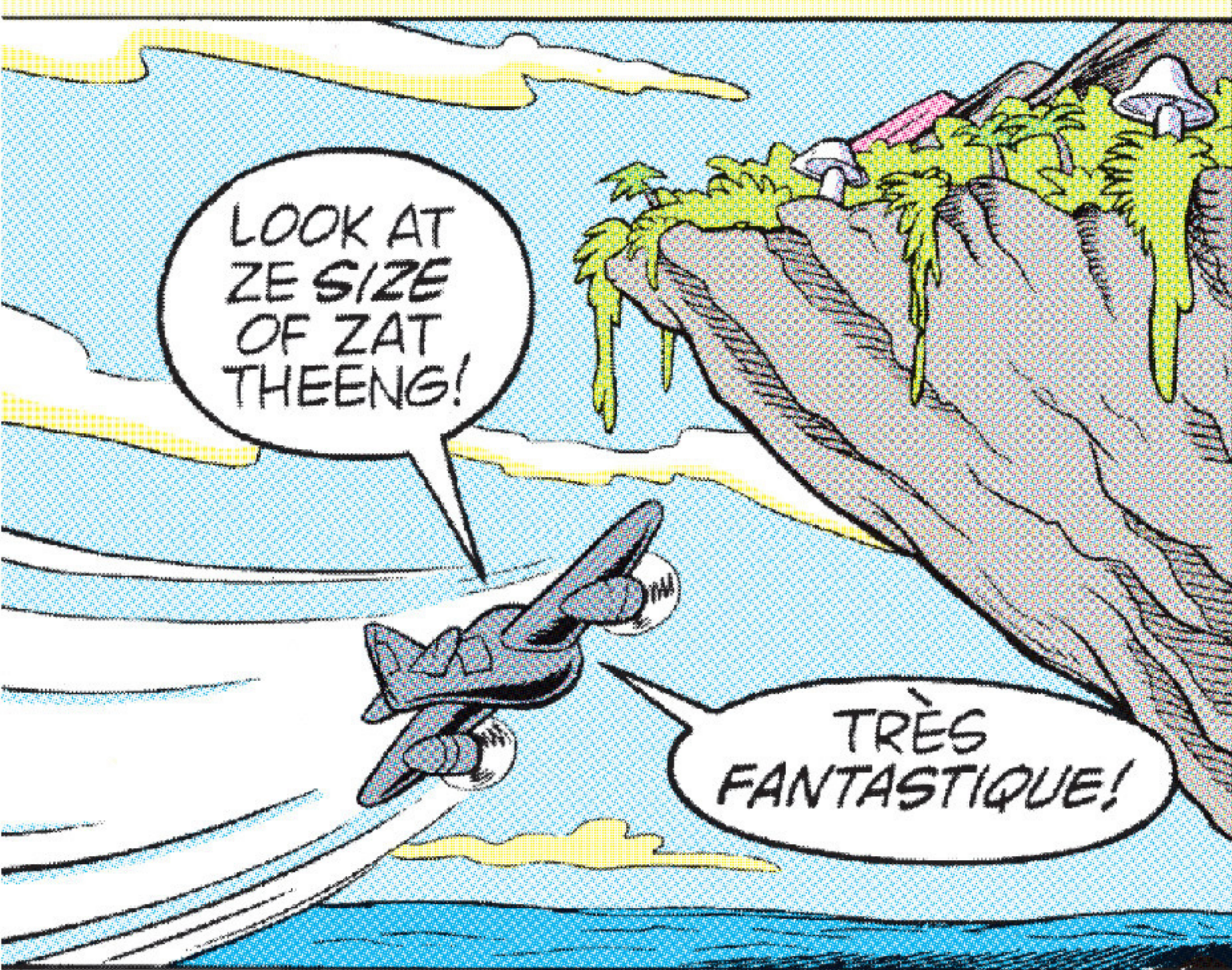
...WHICH MAKES SECOND-GUESSING HIM ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE!



UNTIL HIS INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR, IT'S BEST TO ASSUME THE WORST!

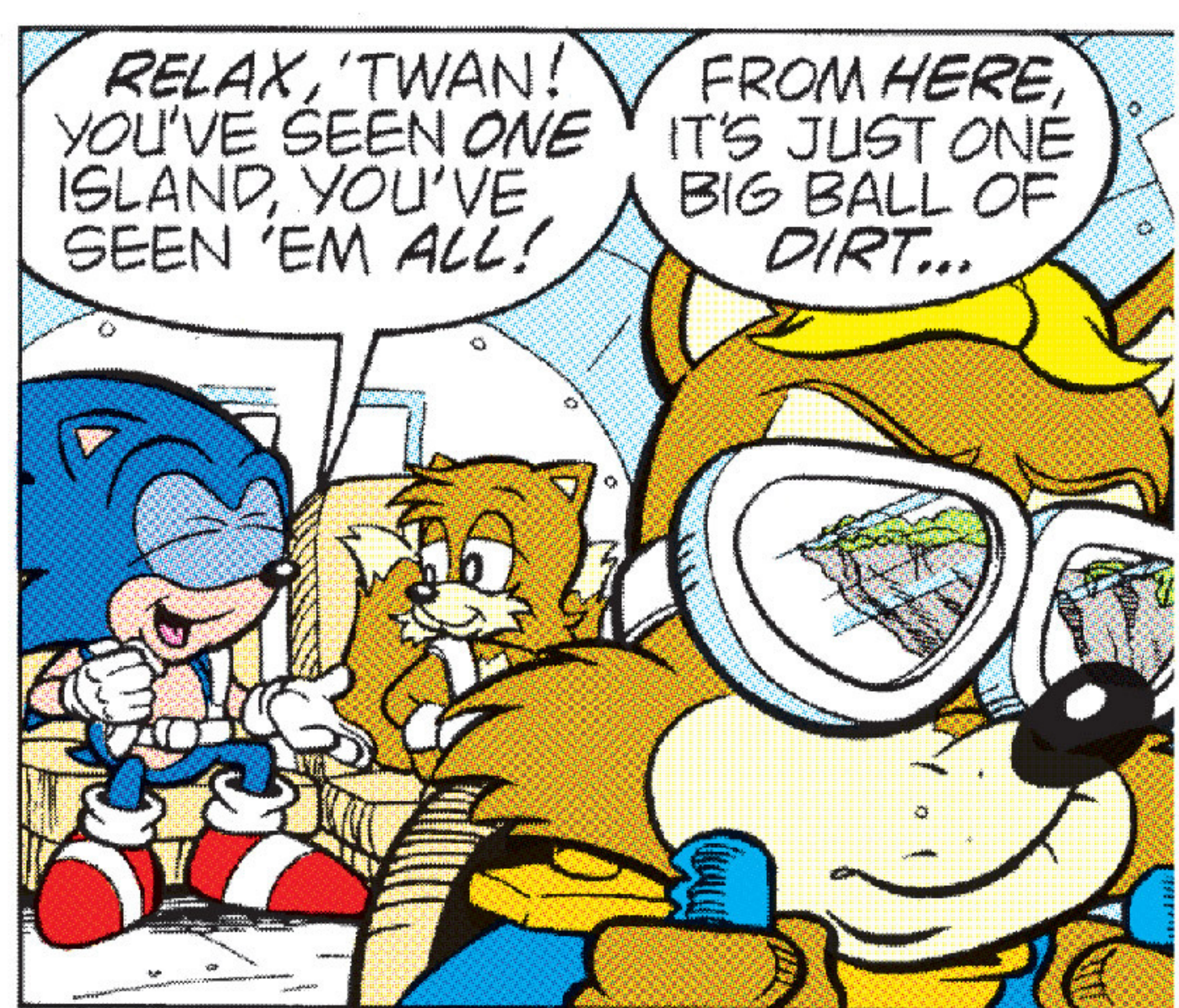
ANTOINE! FLY SONIC AND TAILS OUT IN THE TURBO-PROP...

"...AND LET'S GET A CLOSER LOOK!"



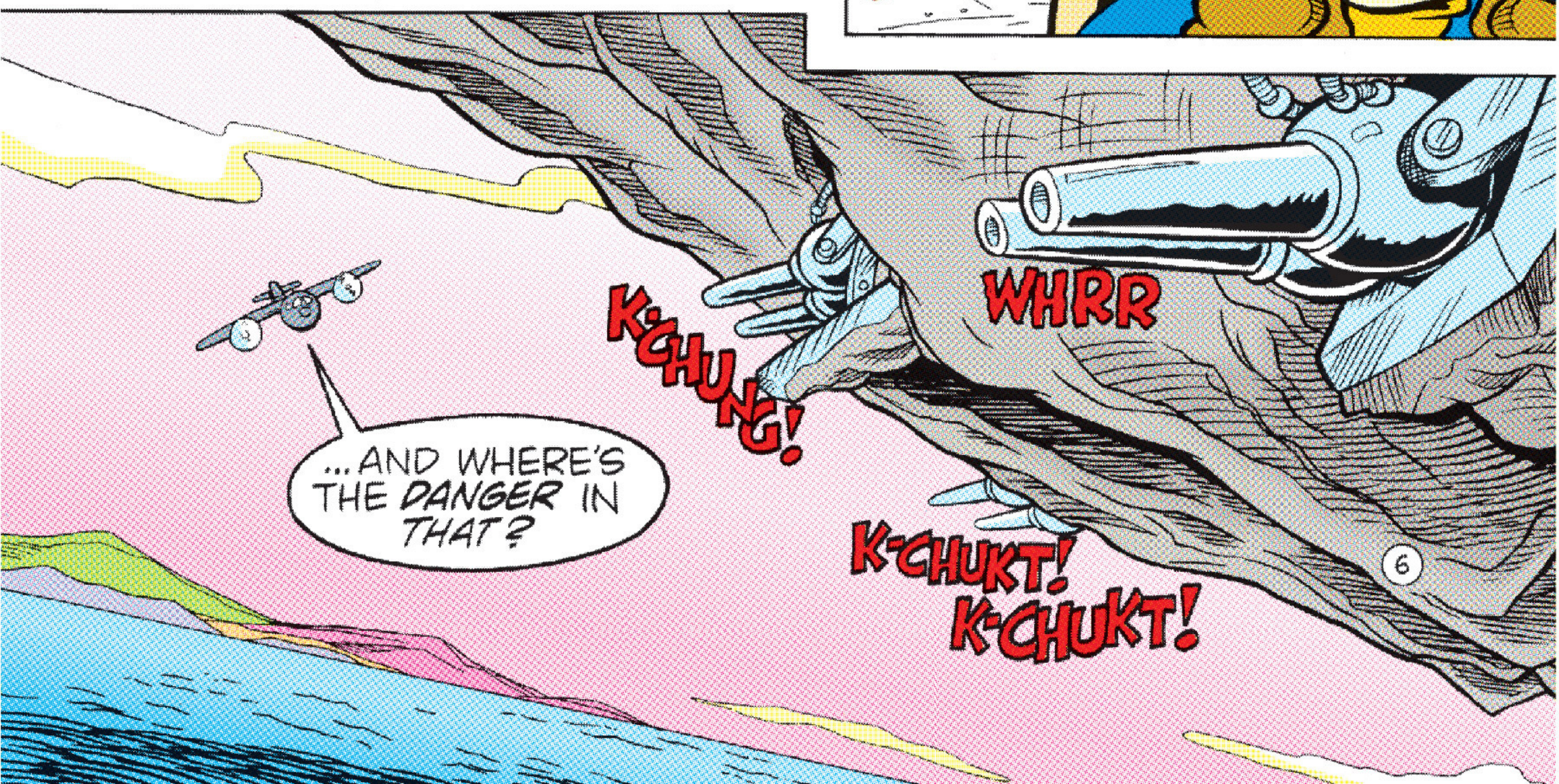
LOOK AT ZE SIZE OF ZAT THEENG!

TRÈS FANTASTIQUE!



RELAX, 'TWAN! YOU'VE SEEN ONE ISLAND, YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL!

FROM HERE, IT'S JUST ONE BIG BALL OF DIRT...



K-CHUNG!

WHRR

K-CHUKT!  
K-CHUKT!

...AND WHERE'S THE DANGER IN THAT?



NOT WAY  
COOL!

WE'RE  
UNDER  
ATTACK!

PHOOM!

PHOOM!

PHOOM!

ZUT  
ALORS!

I THOUGHT  
YOU SAID ZIS  
ISLAND WAS  
UNARMED!

IT WAS...

...UNTIL  
NOW!

SOMETHING  
NEW HAS BEEN  
ADDED!

HEAVY  
ARTILLERY...

...AND  
ENGINES!

TAKE US  
TOPSIDE, 'TWAN!  
LET'S GET TO THE  
BOTTOM OF  
THIS!



ZE GUNS, IT SEEMS, CANNOT BE AIMED ABOVE ZE HORIZON!

I WAS COUNTING ON THAT!

GET YOURSELF AND THE TURBO-PROP BACK TO BASE...

...WE'RE GOIN' IN!

GERONIMO!!!

NEED A LIFT, SONIC?

NO THANKS, PAL...

...BEING PIGGY-BACKED IS BAD FOR MY IMAGE!

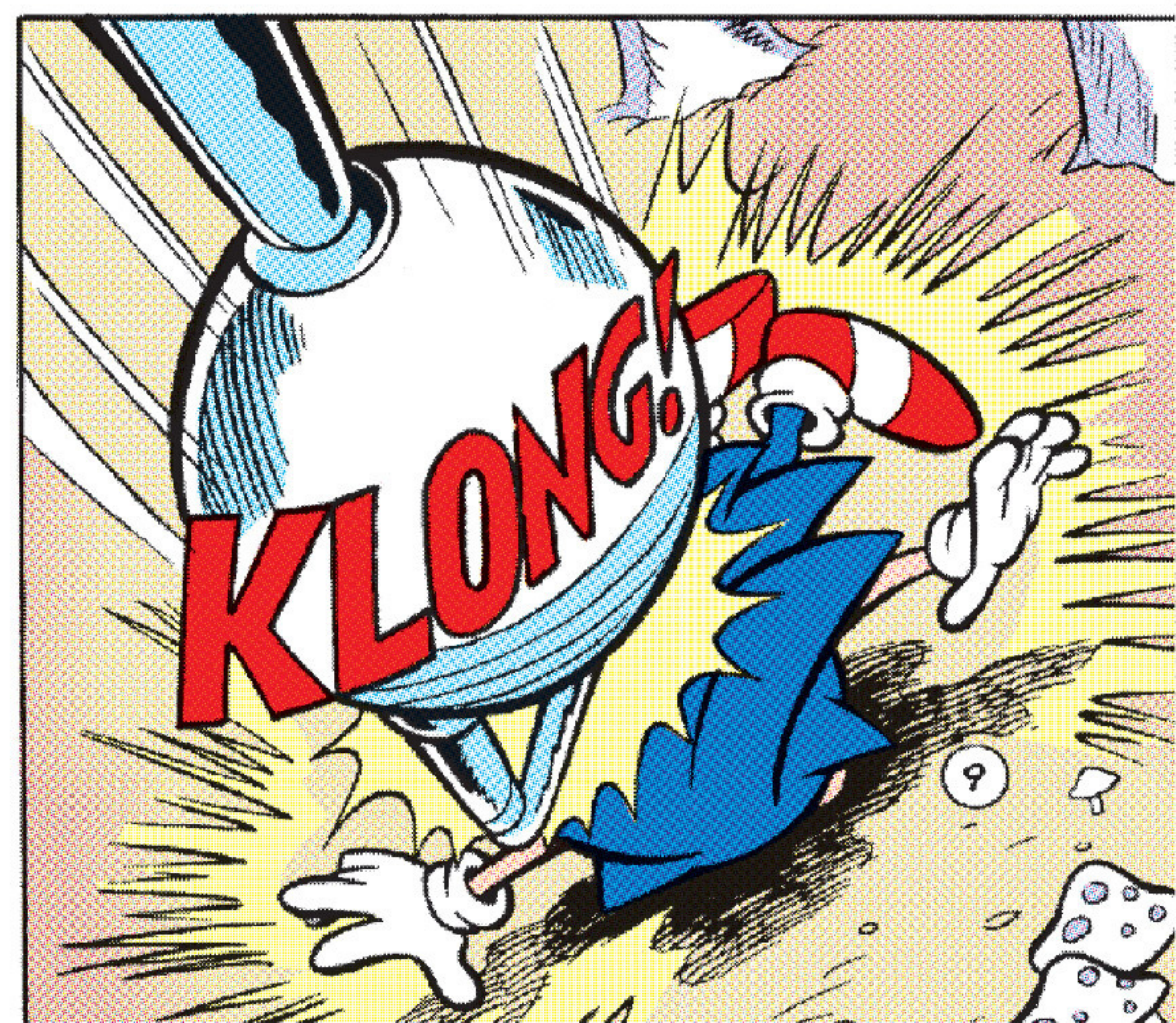
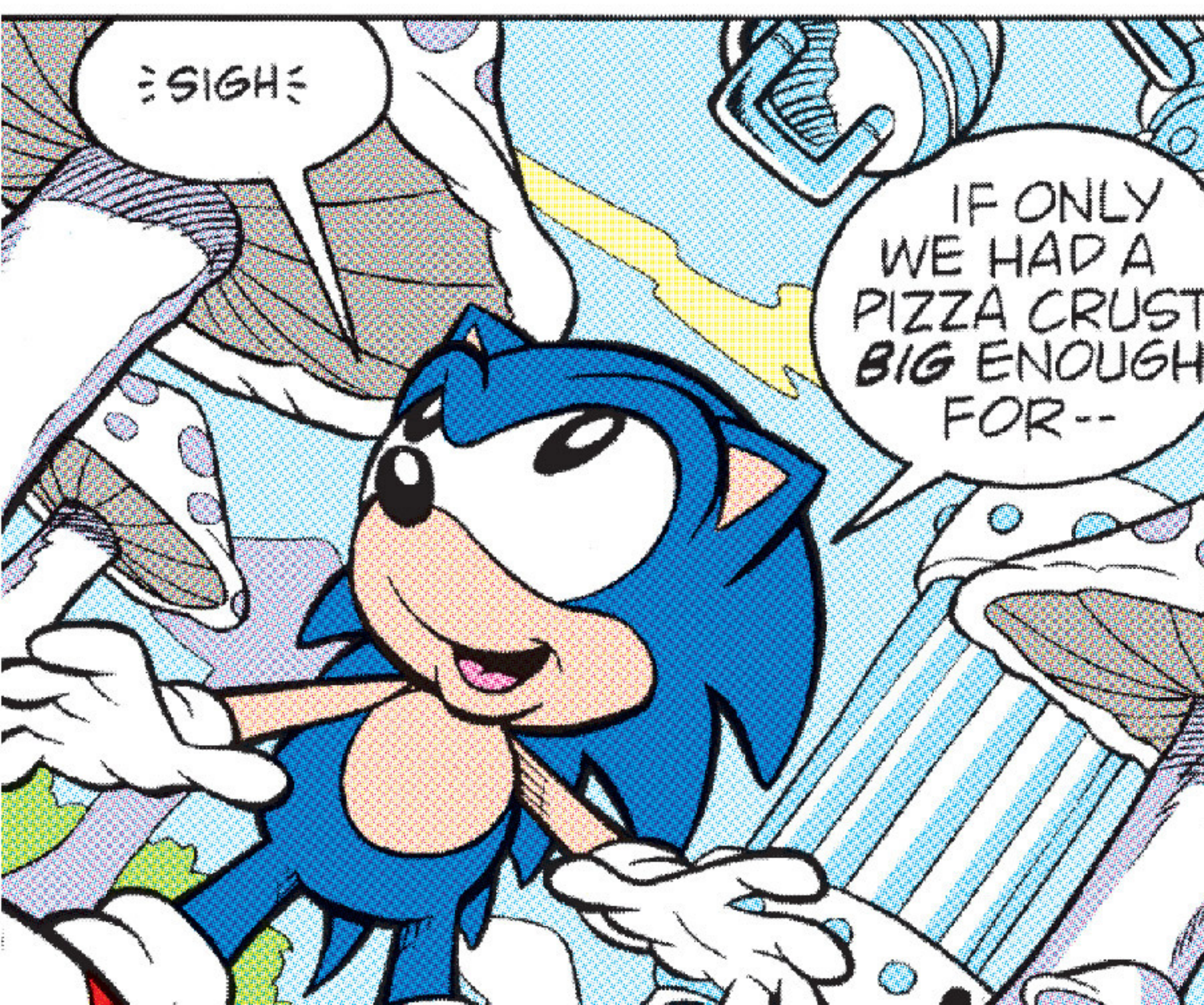
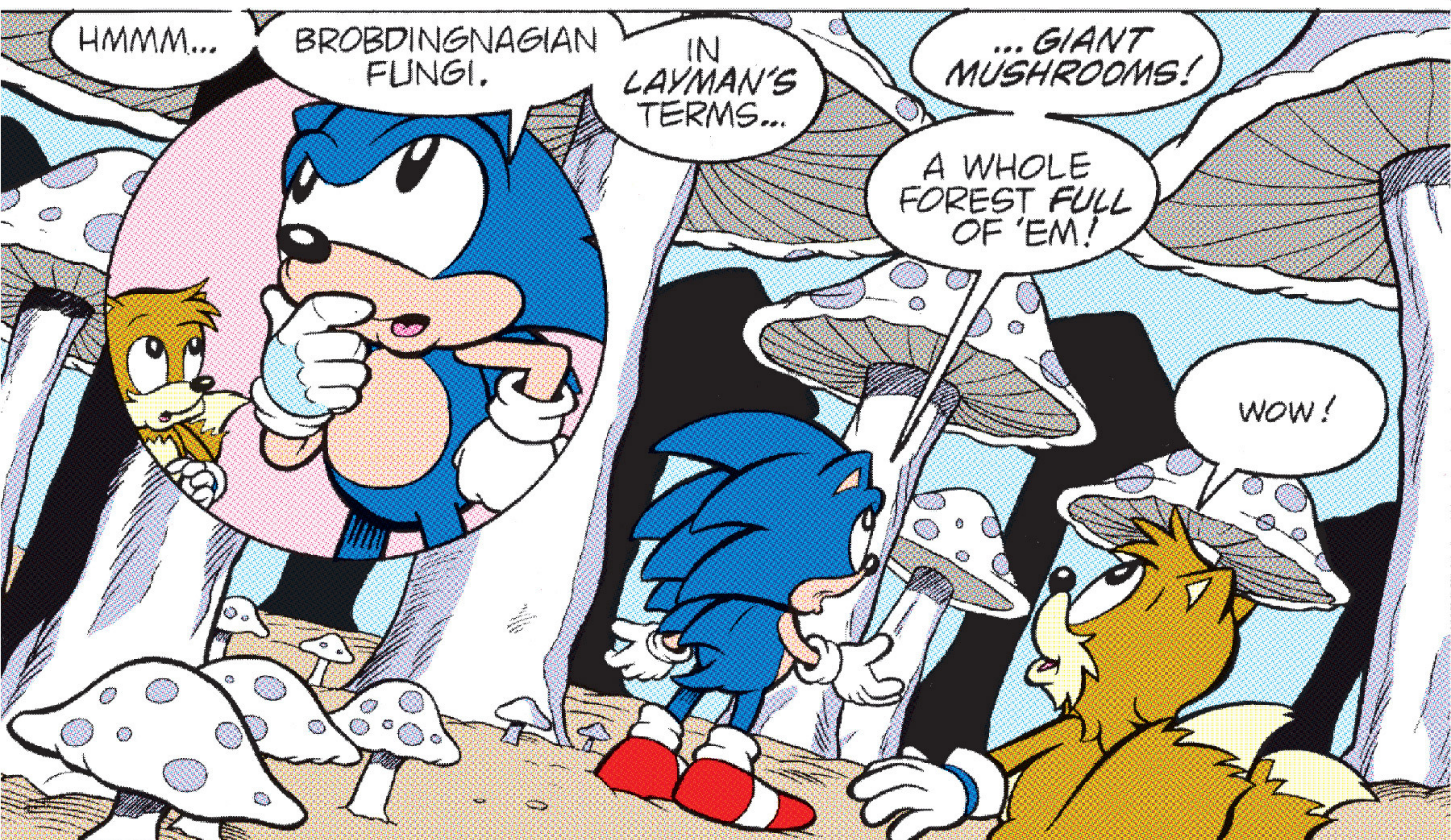
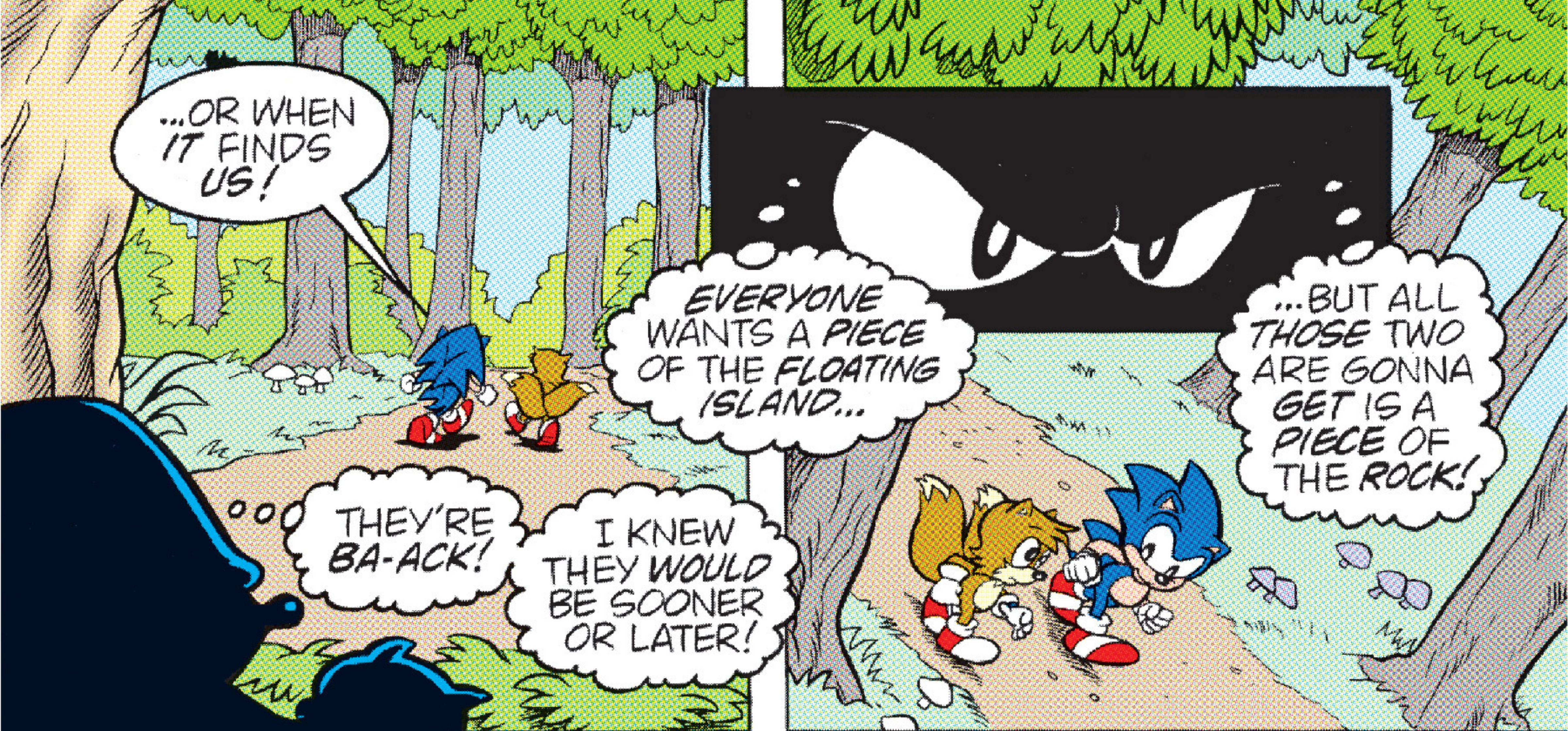
SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?

I'M NOT QUITE SURE, TAILS!

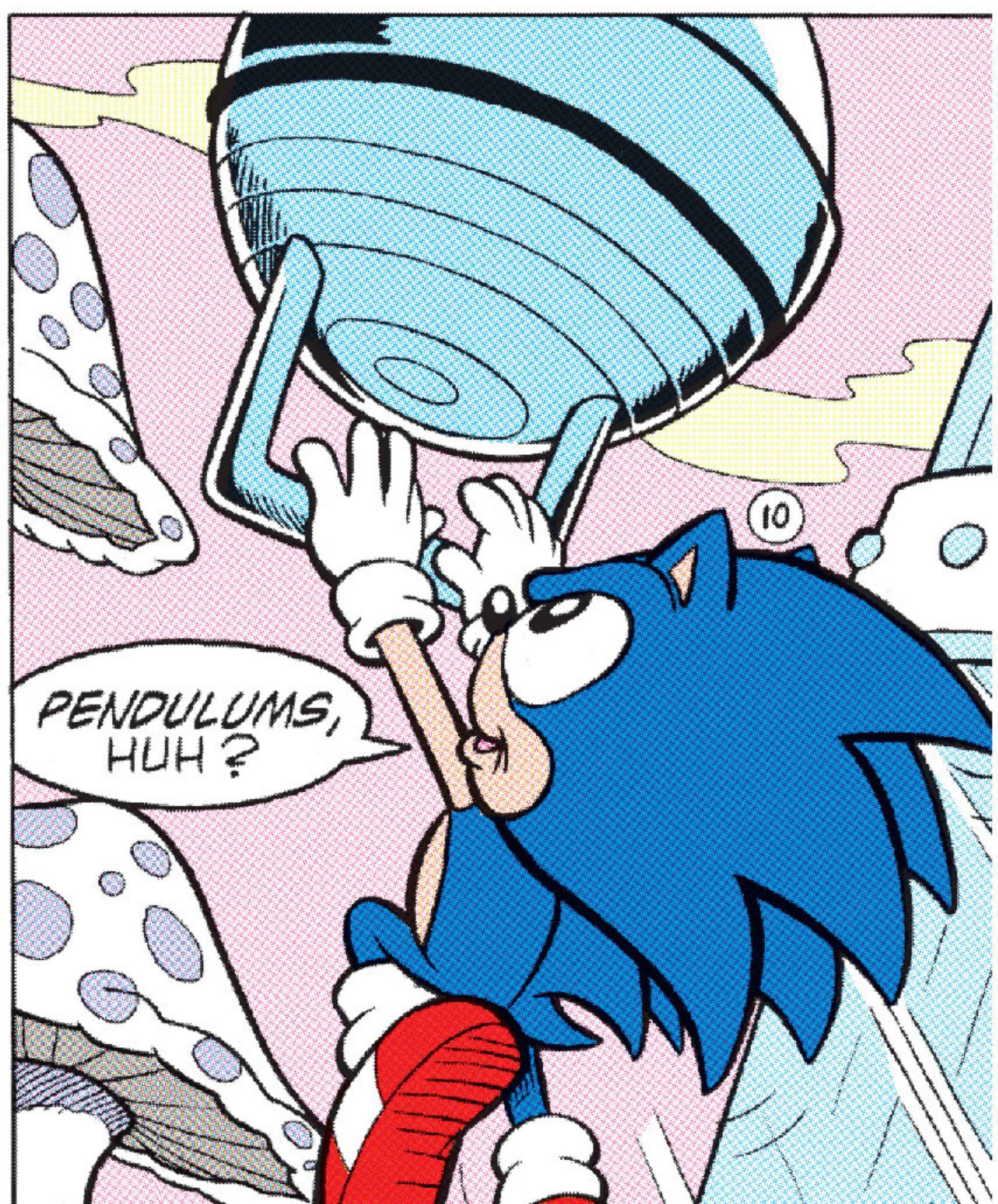
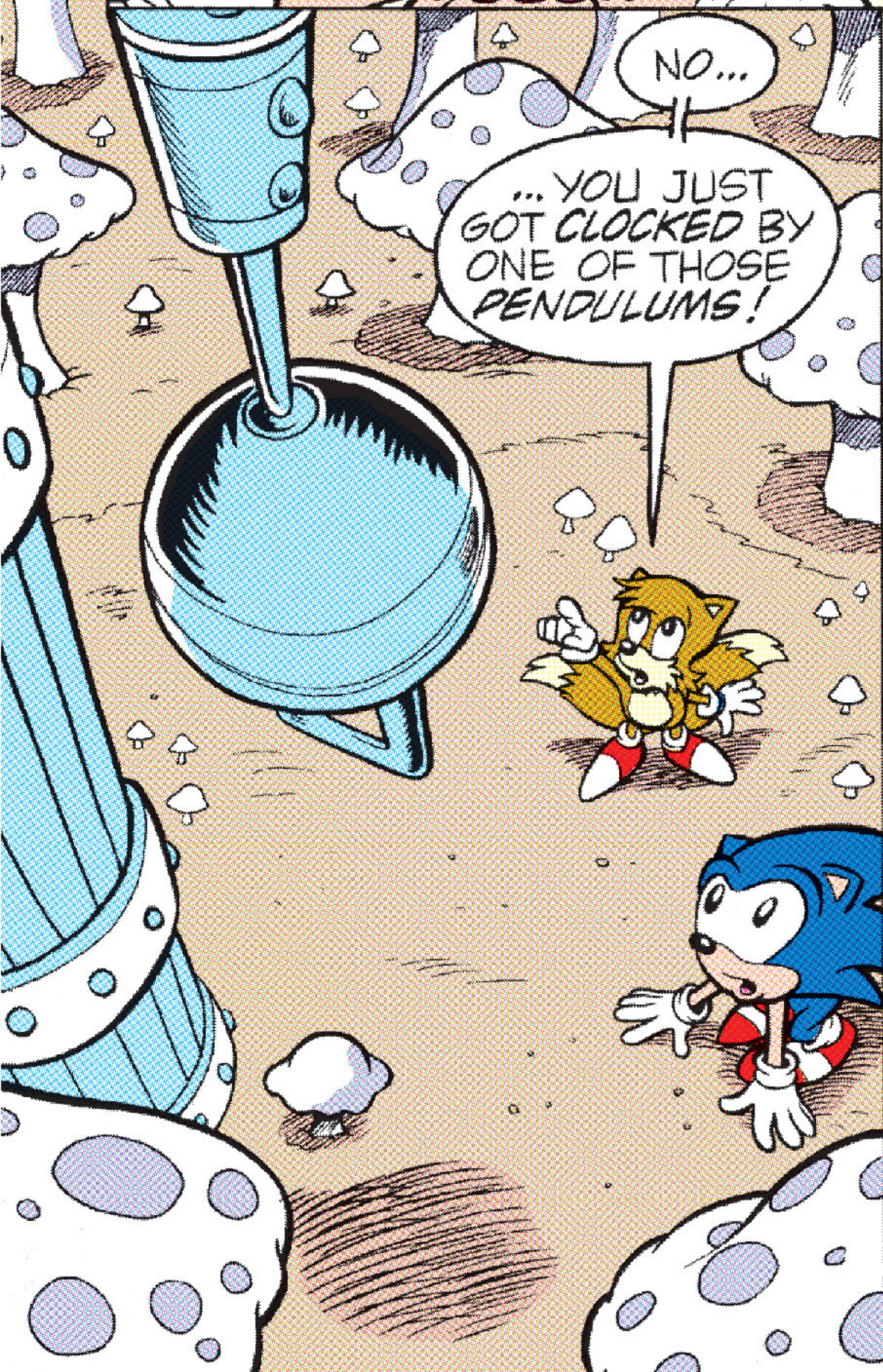
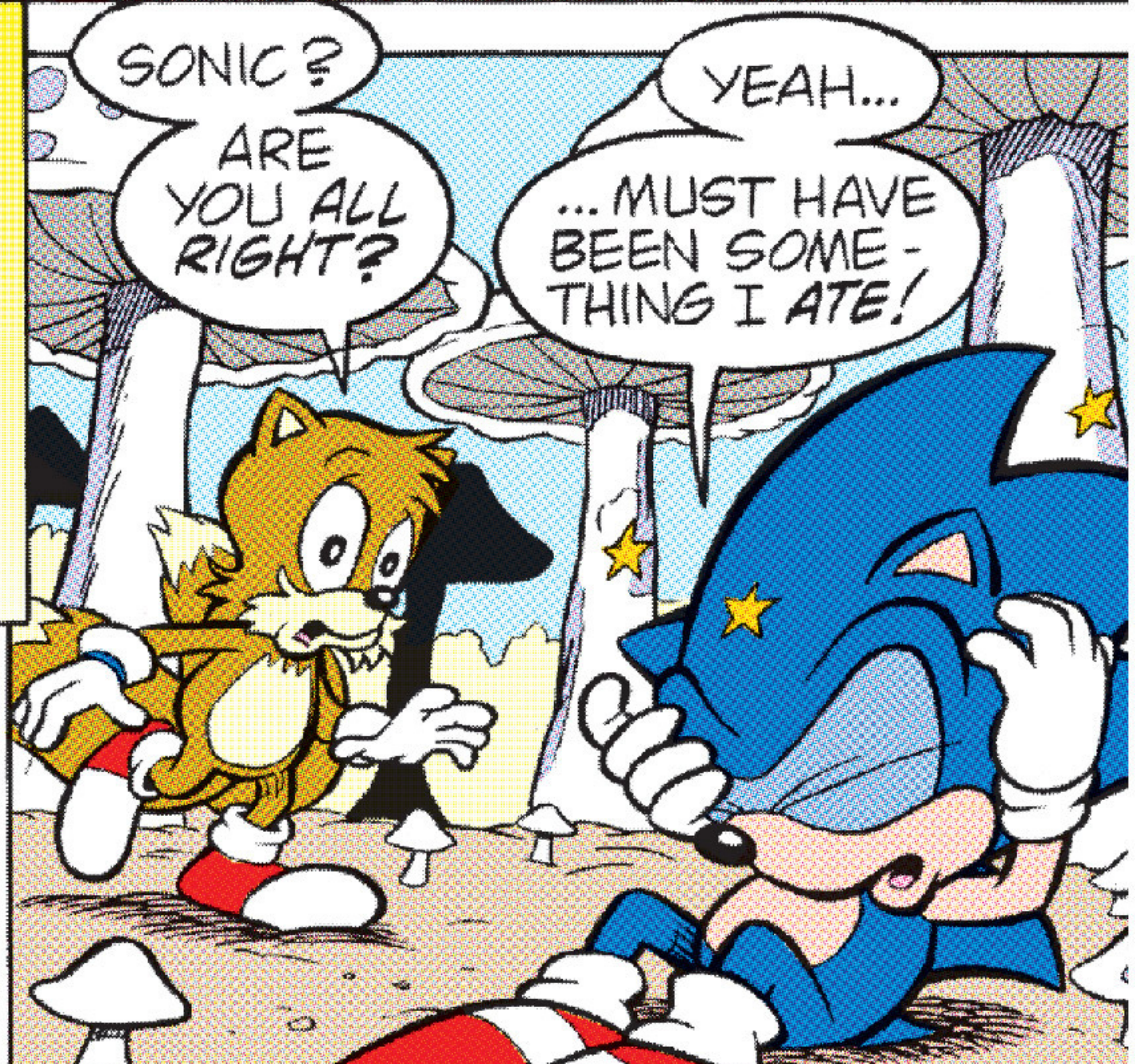
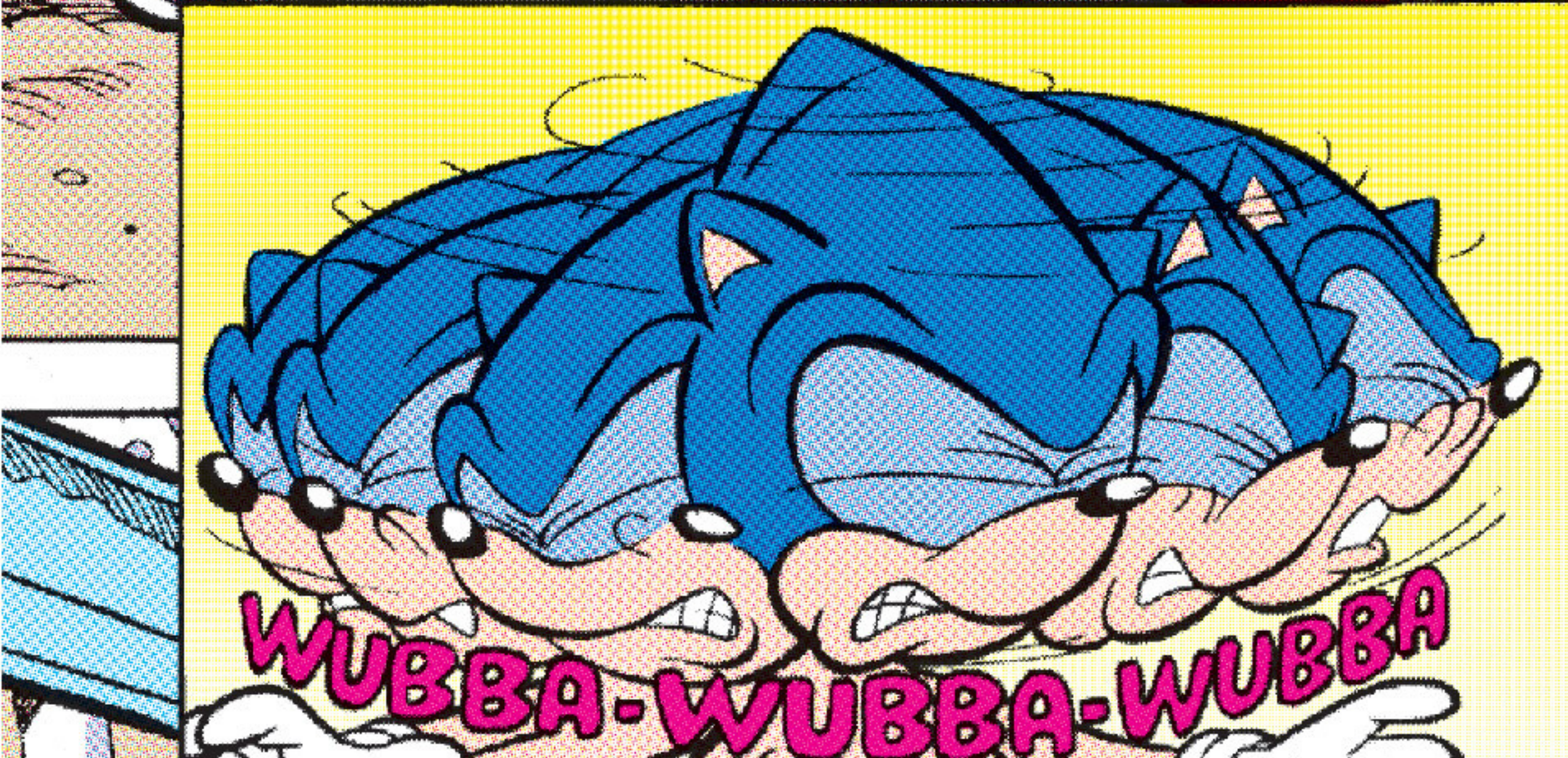
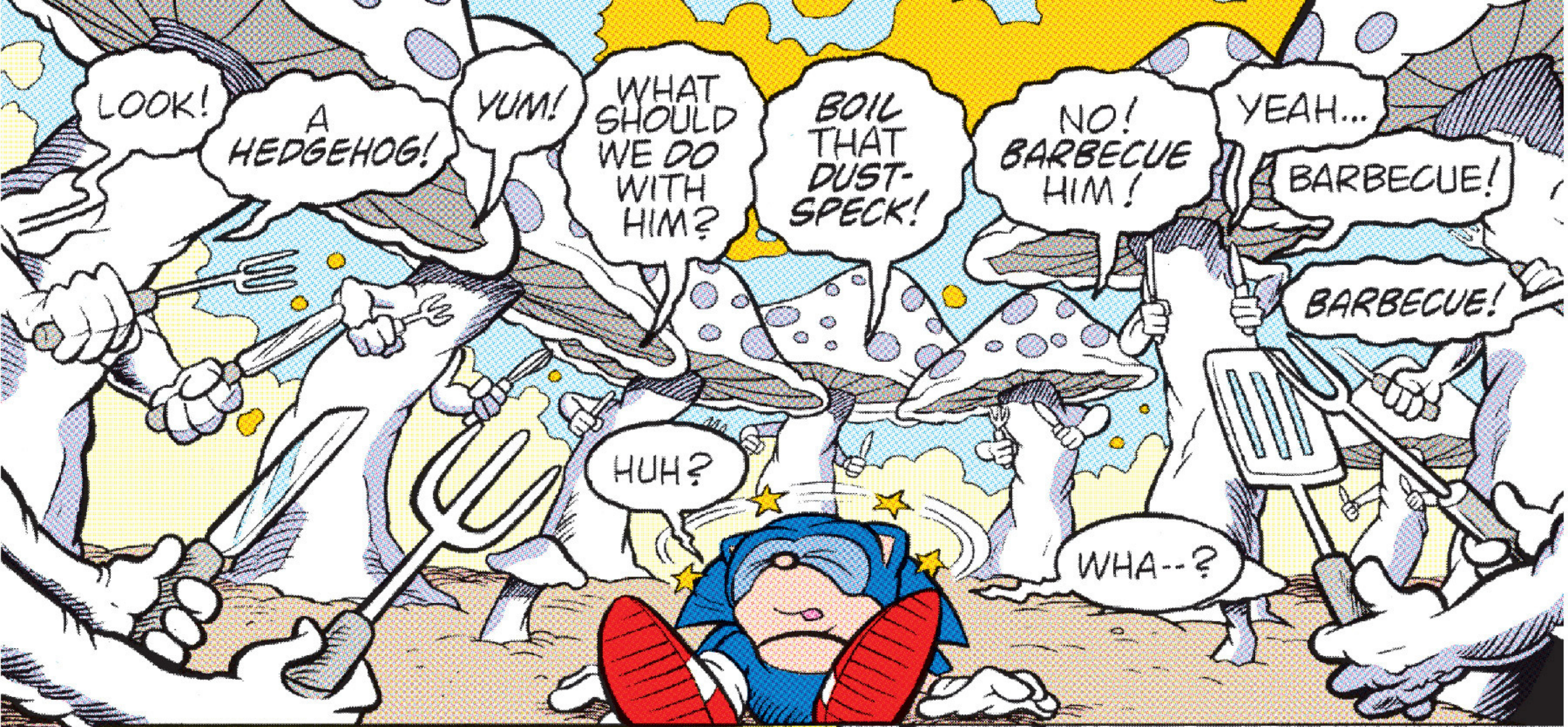
WE'LL KNOW WHEN WE FIND IT...

WHUUMPH!

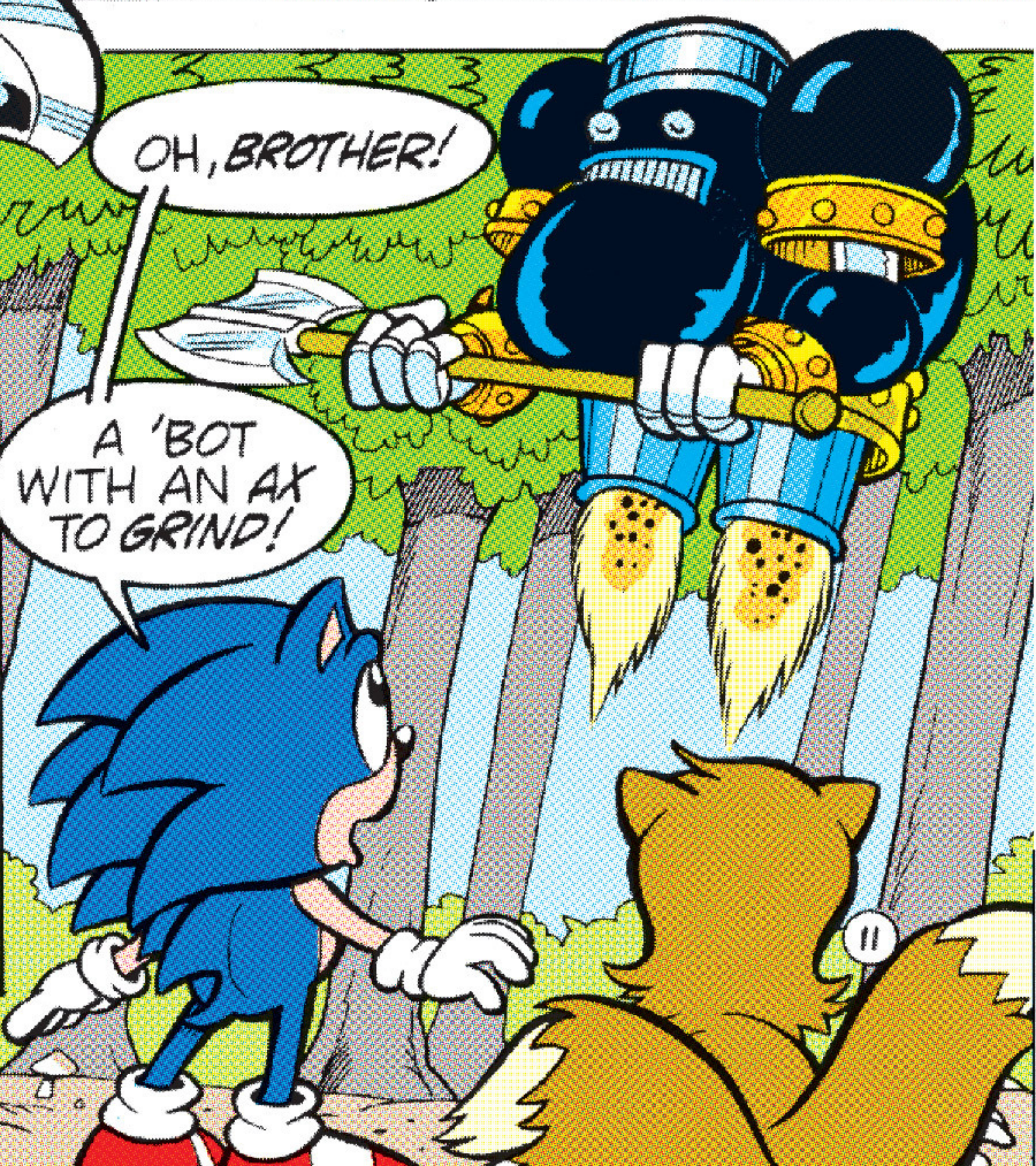
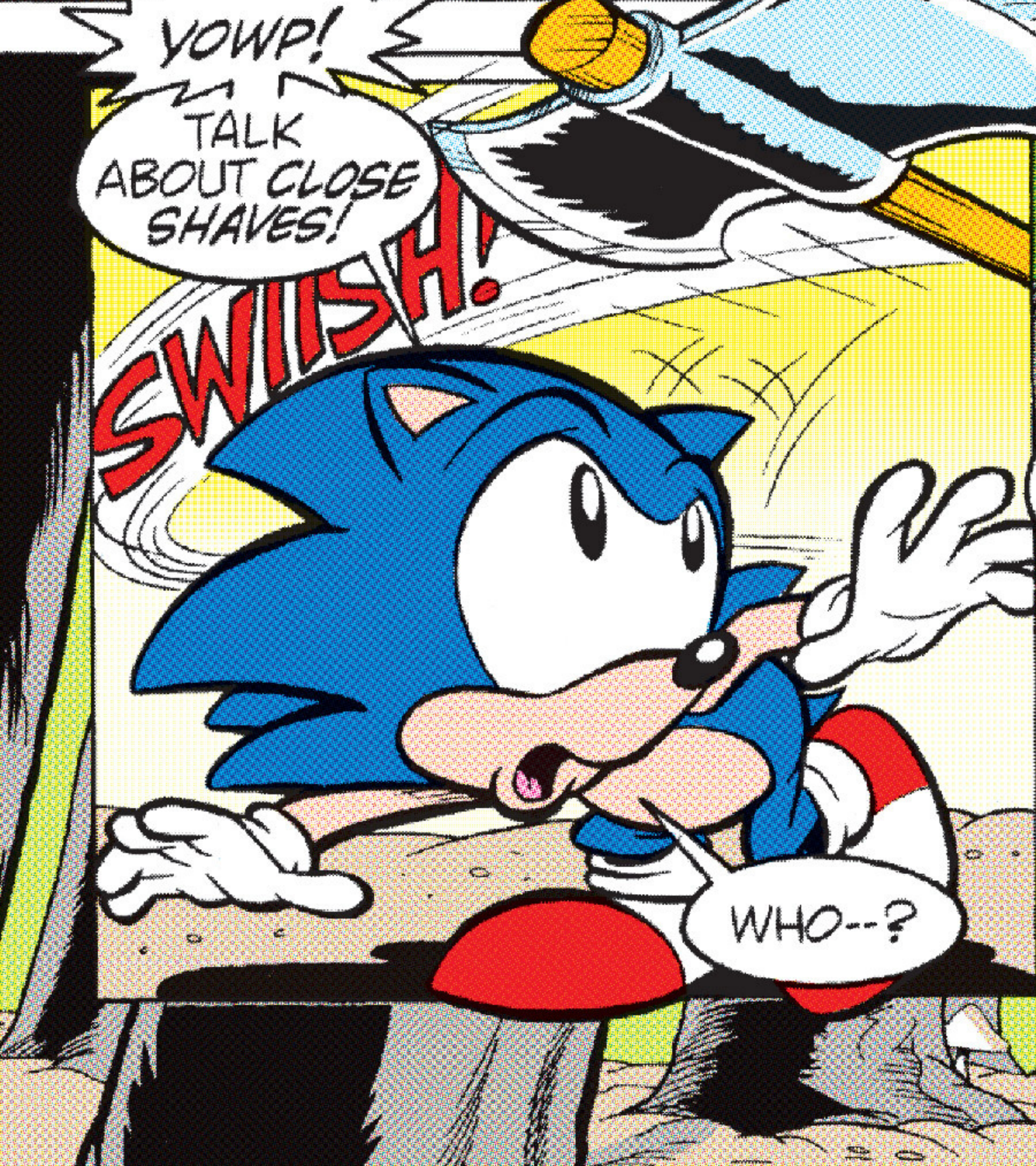
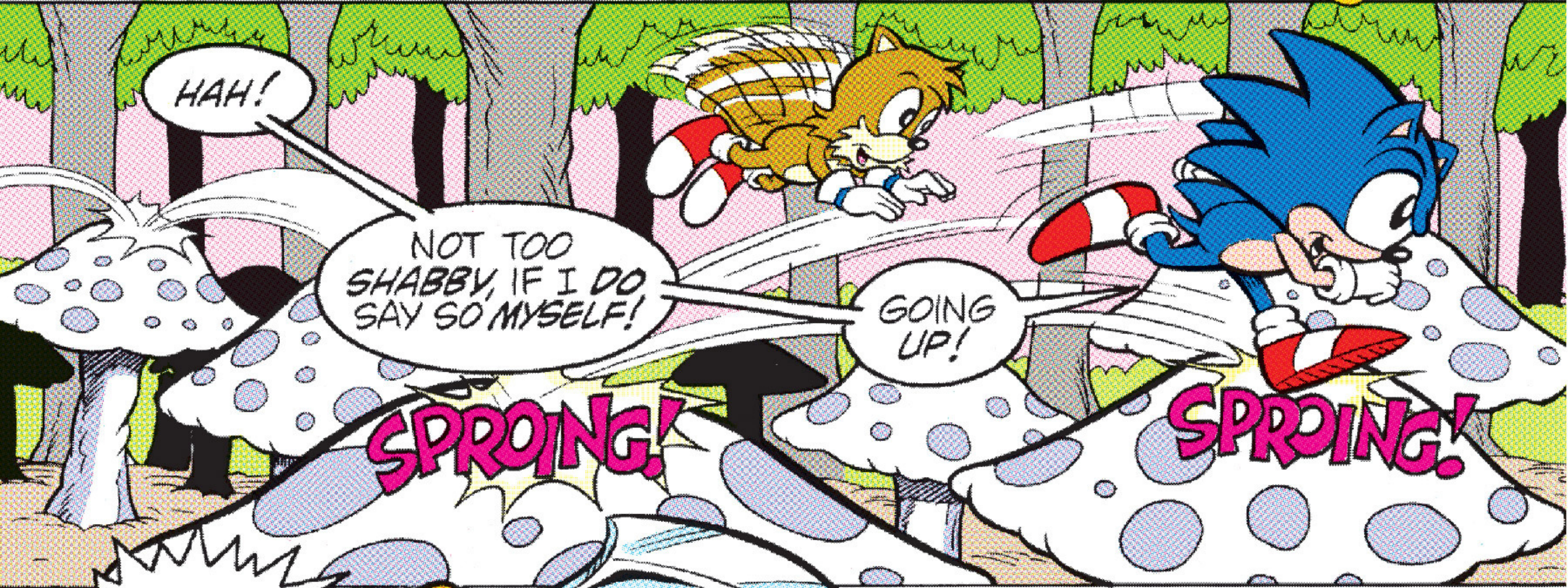
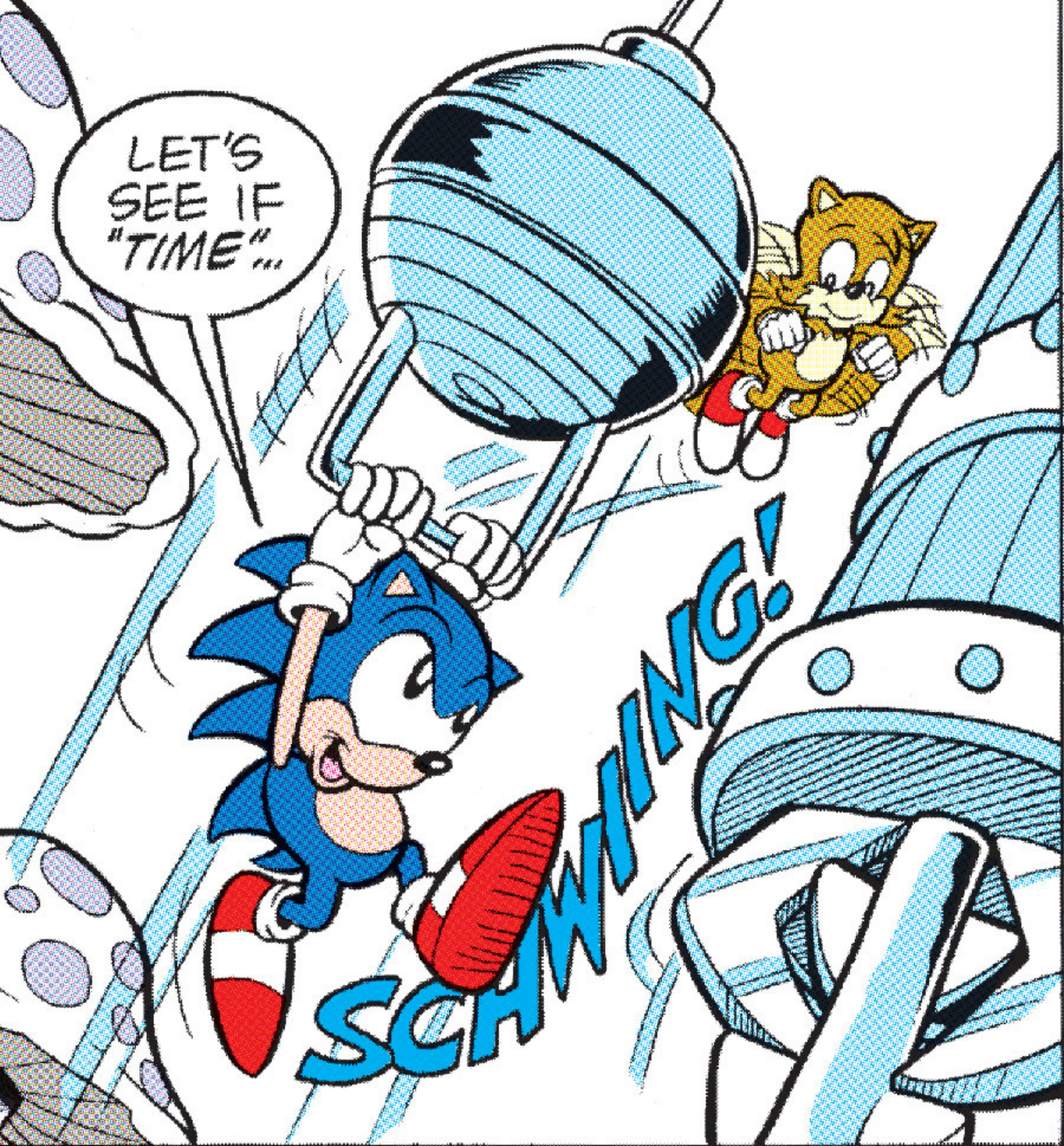




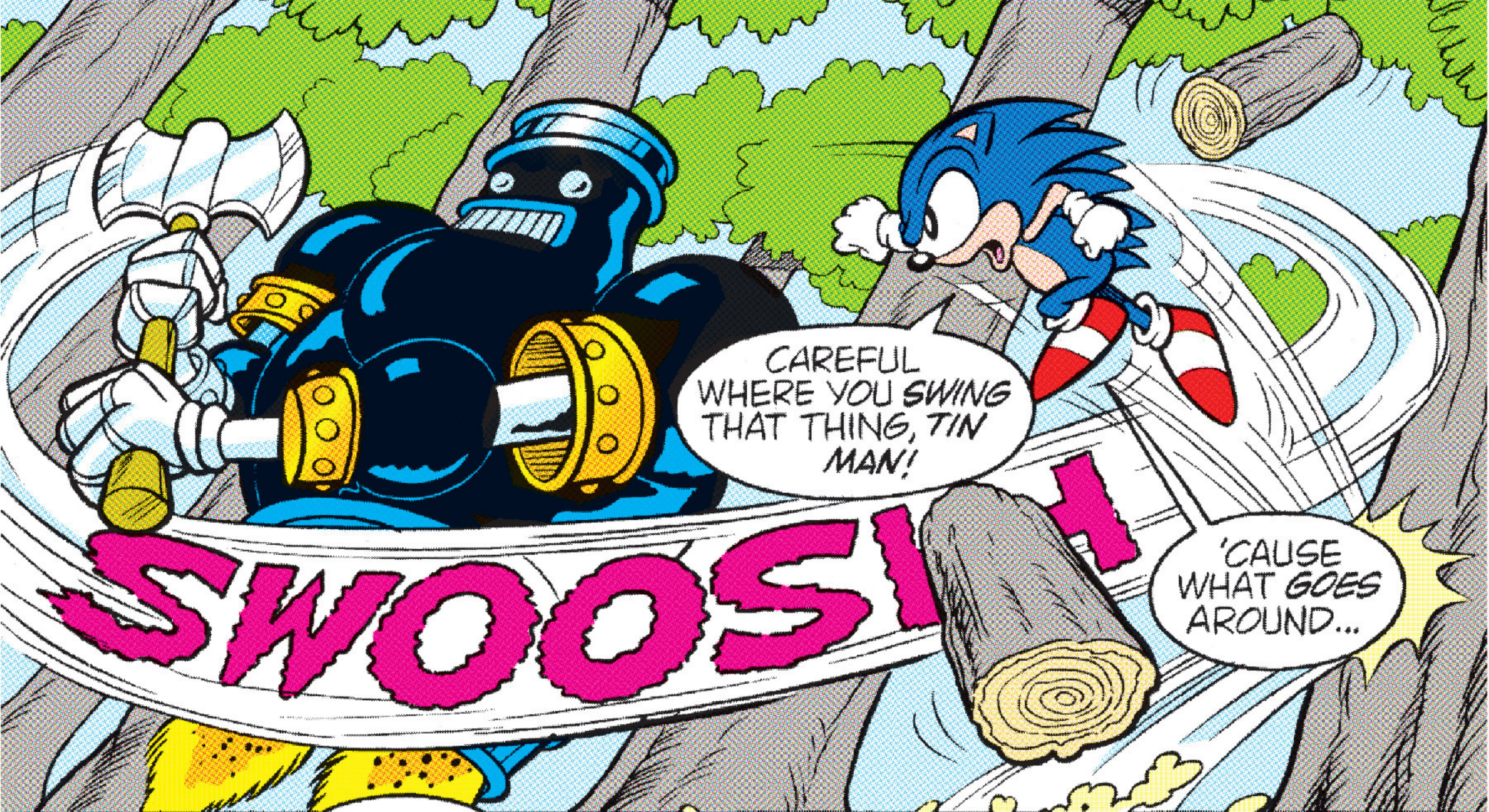






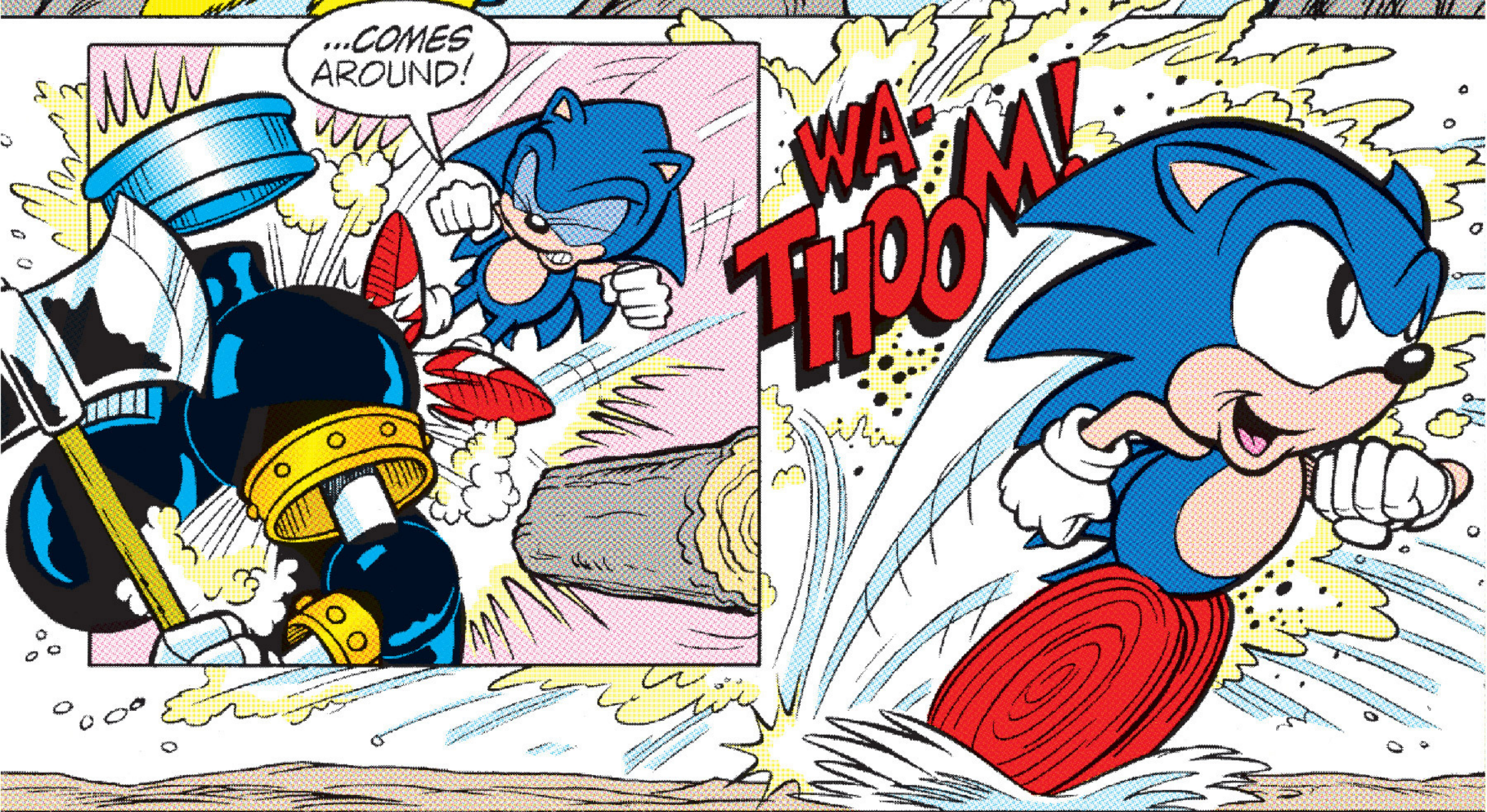






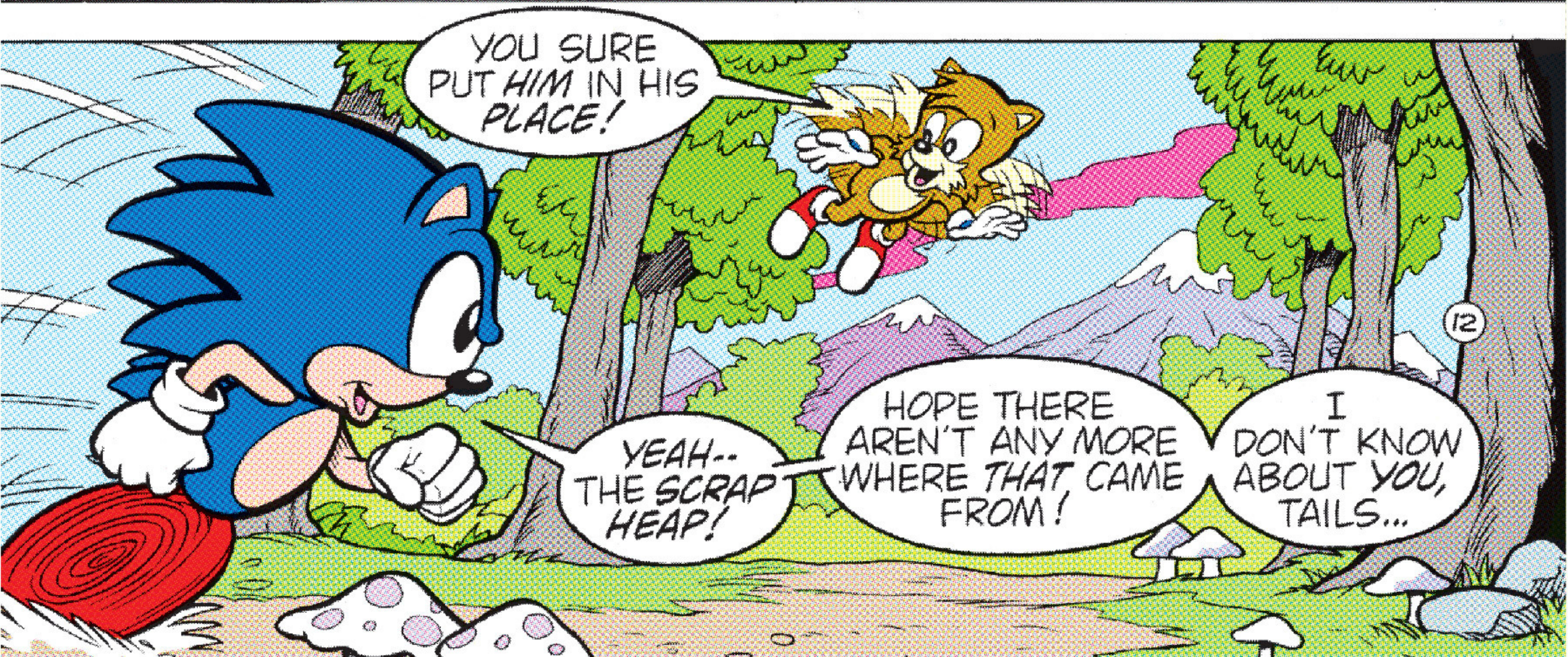
CAREFUL  
WHERE YOU SWING  
THAT THING, TIN  
MAN!

'CAUSE  
WHAT GOES  
AROUND...



...COMES  
AROUND!

WA-  
THOOM!



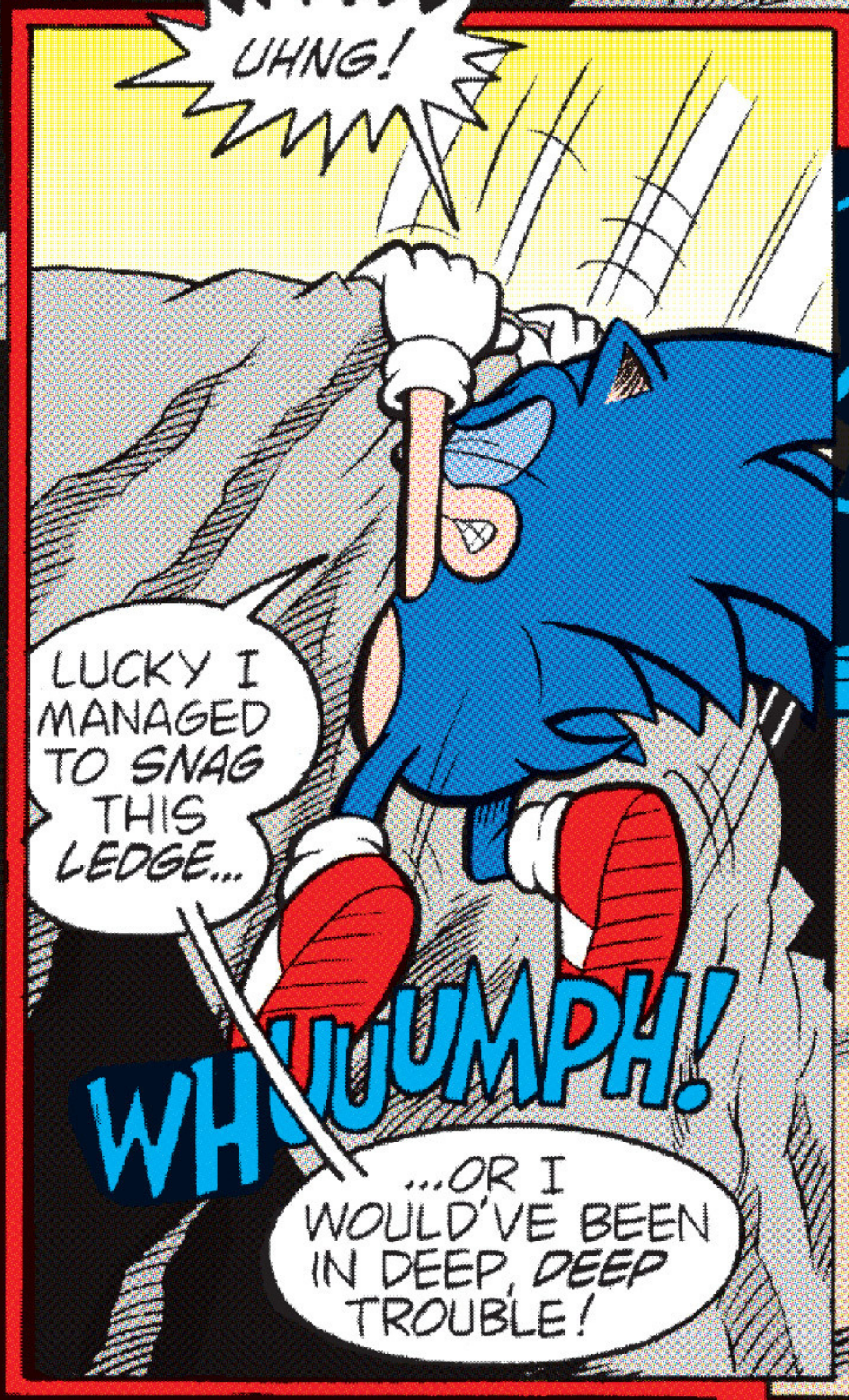
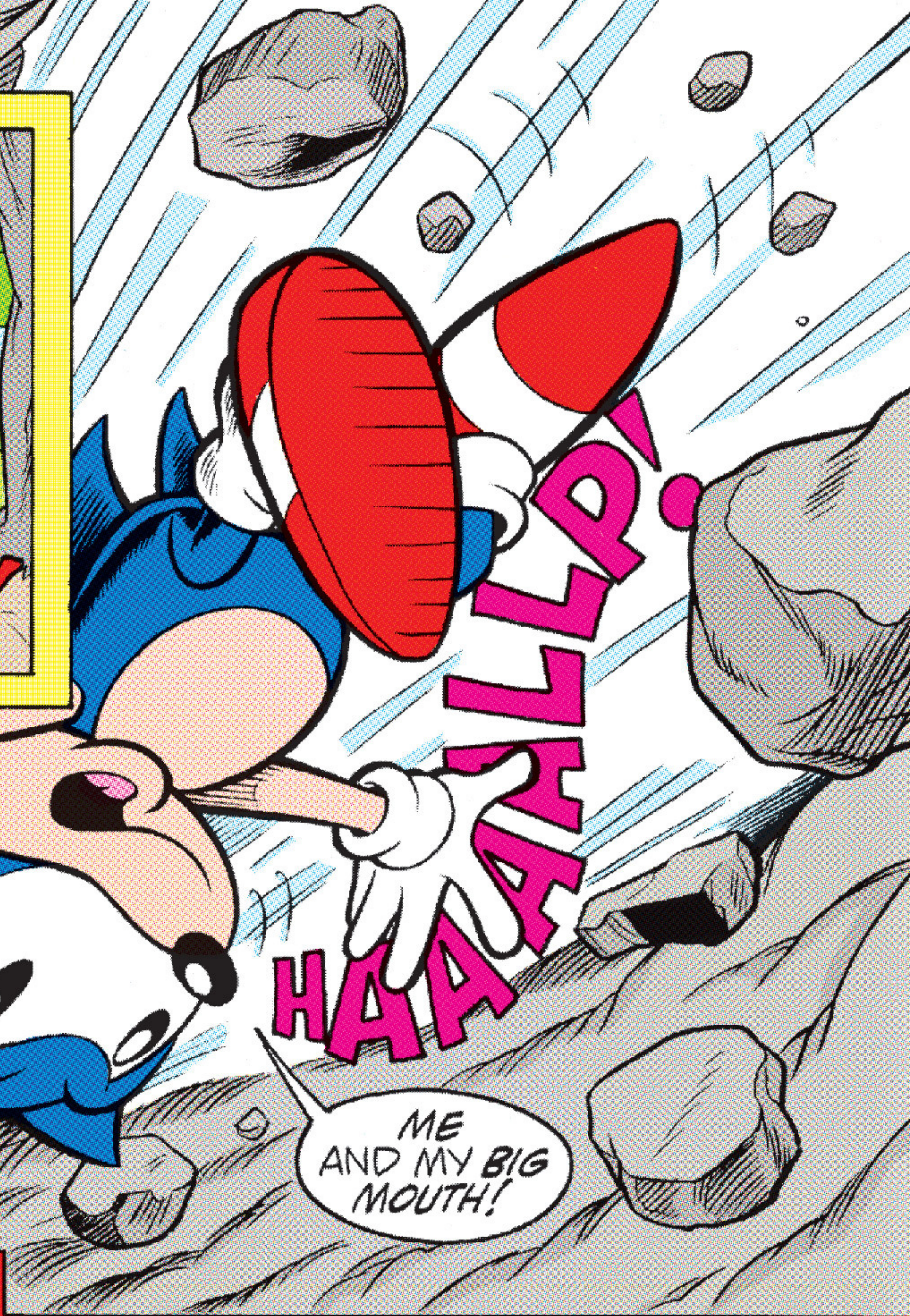
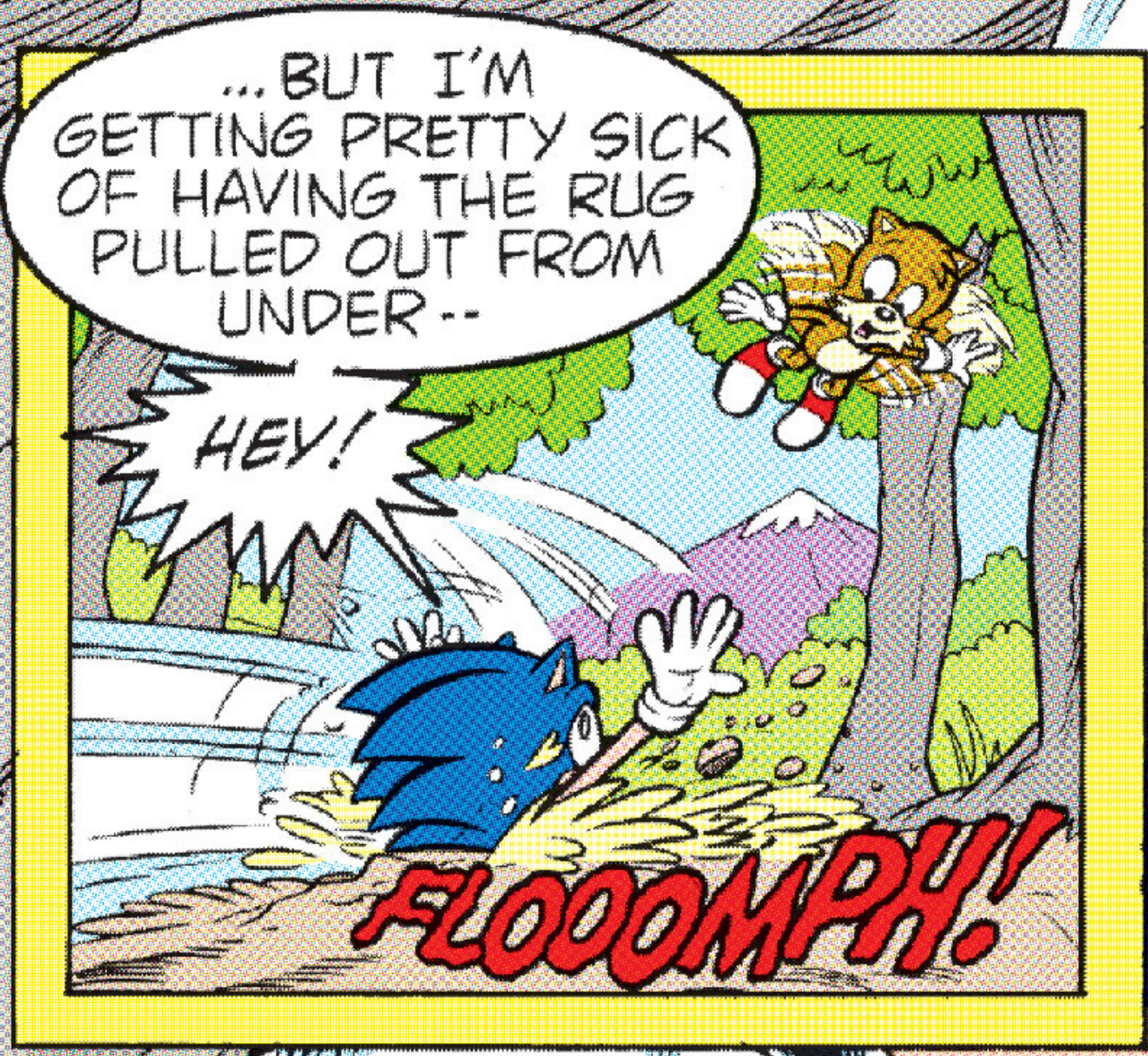
YOU SURE  
PUT HIM IN HIS  
PLACE!

YEAH--  
THE SCRAP  
HEAP!

HOPE THERE  
AREN'T ANY MORE  
WHERE THAT CAME  
FROM!

I  
DON'T KNOW  
ABOUT YOU,  
TAILS...





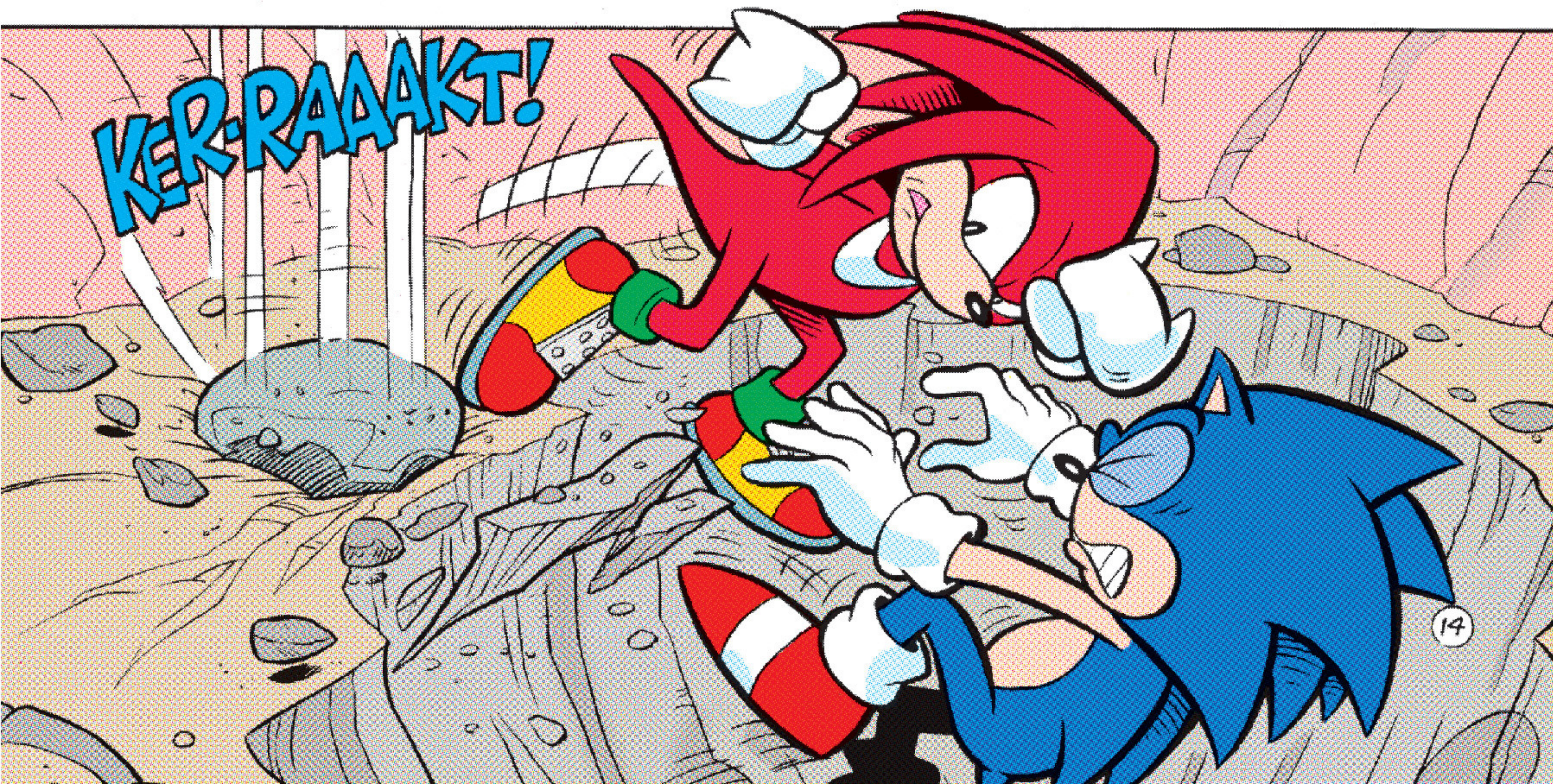
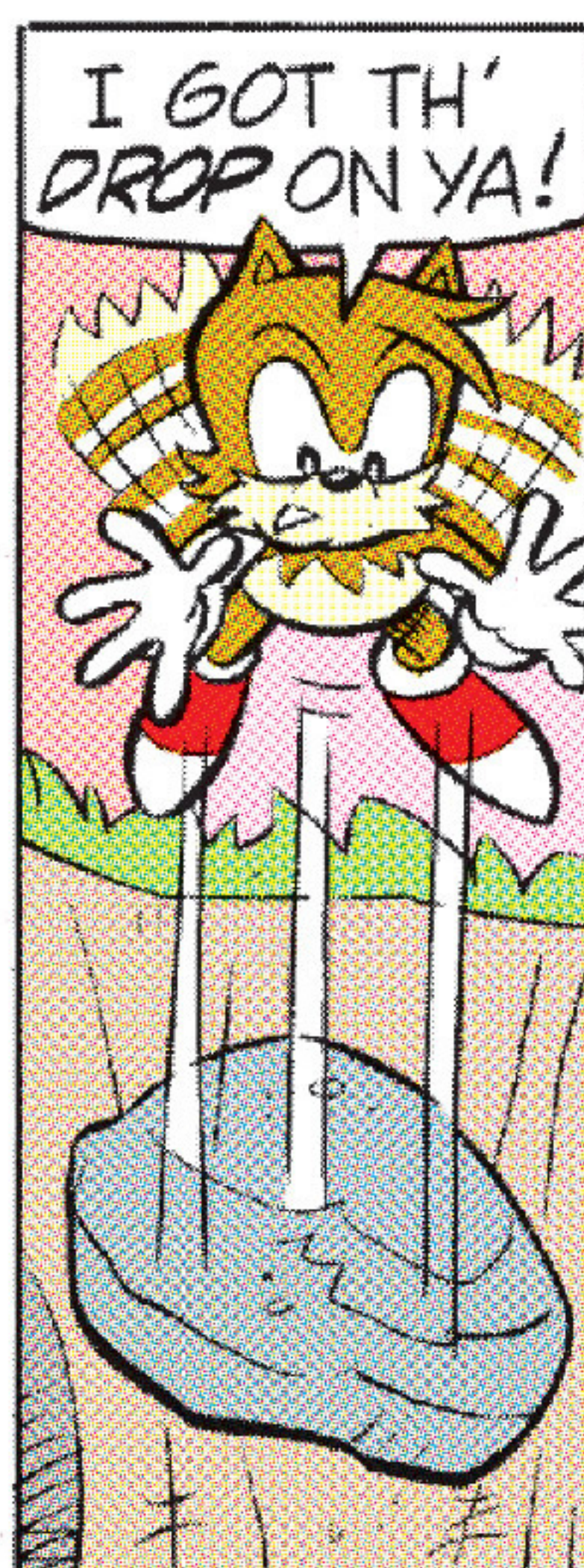
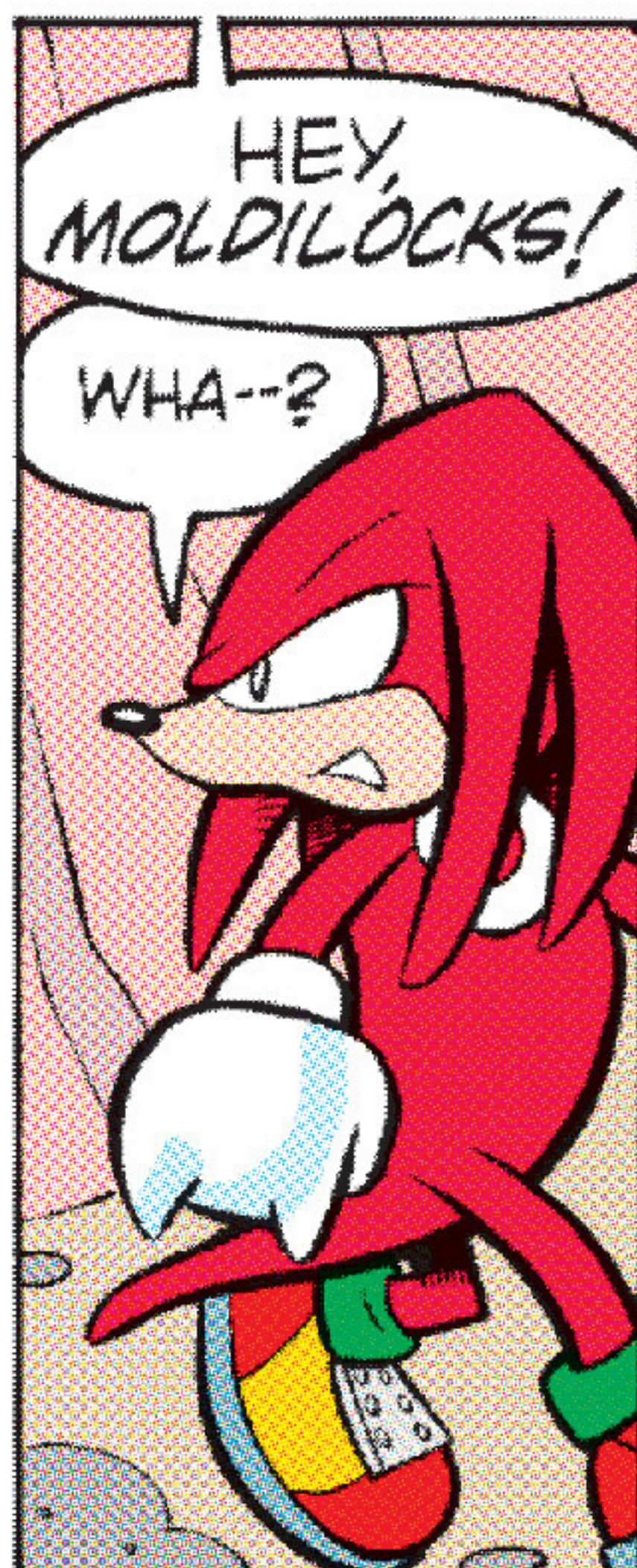
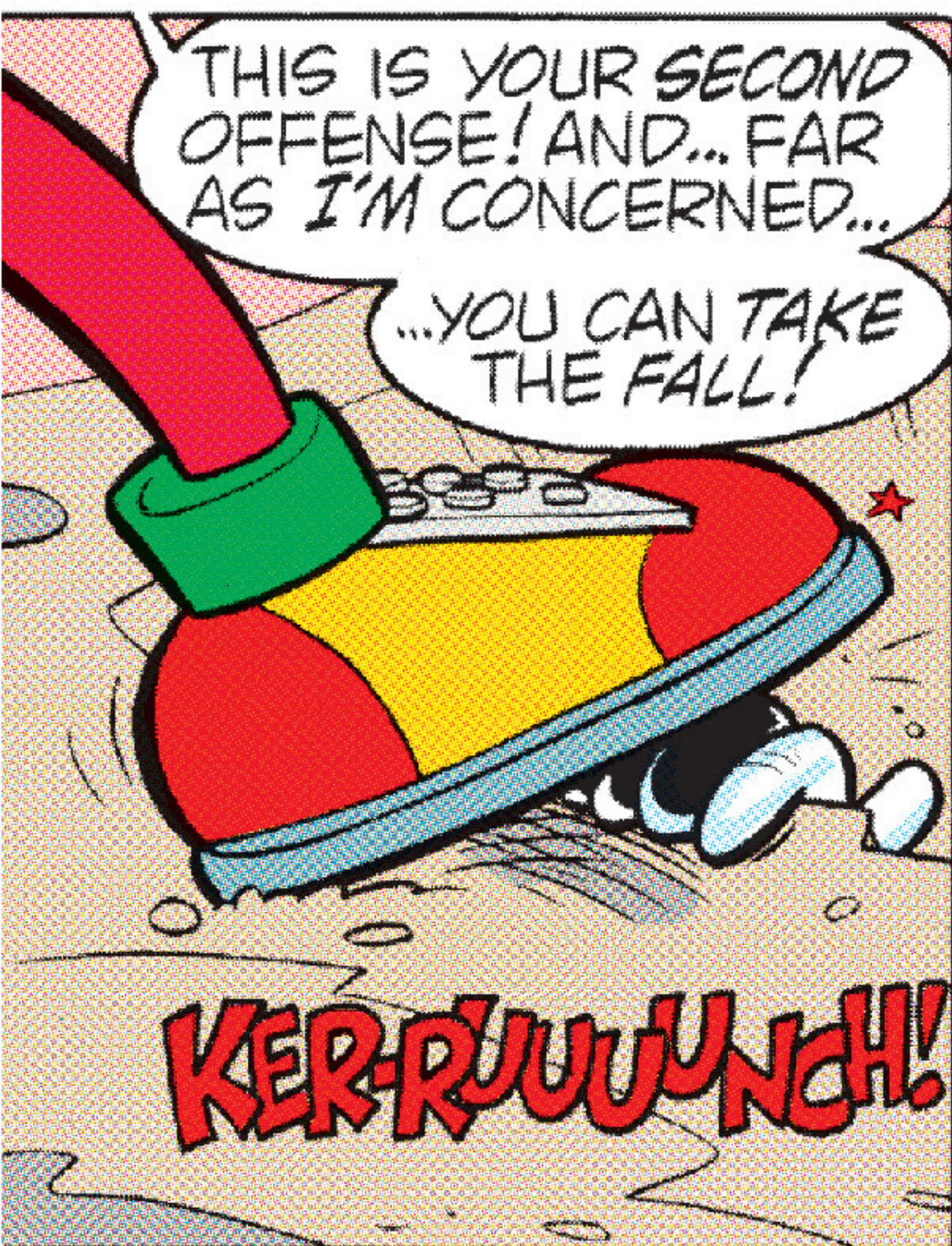
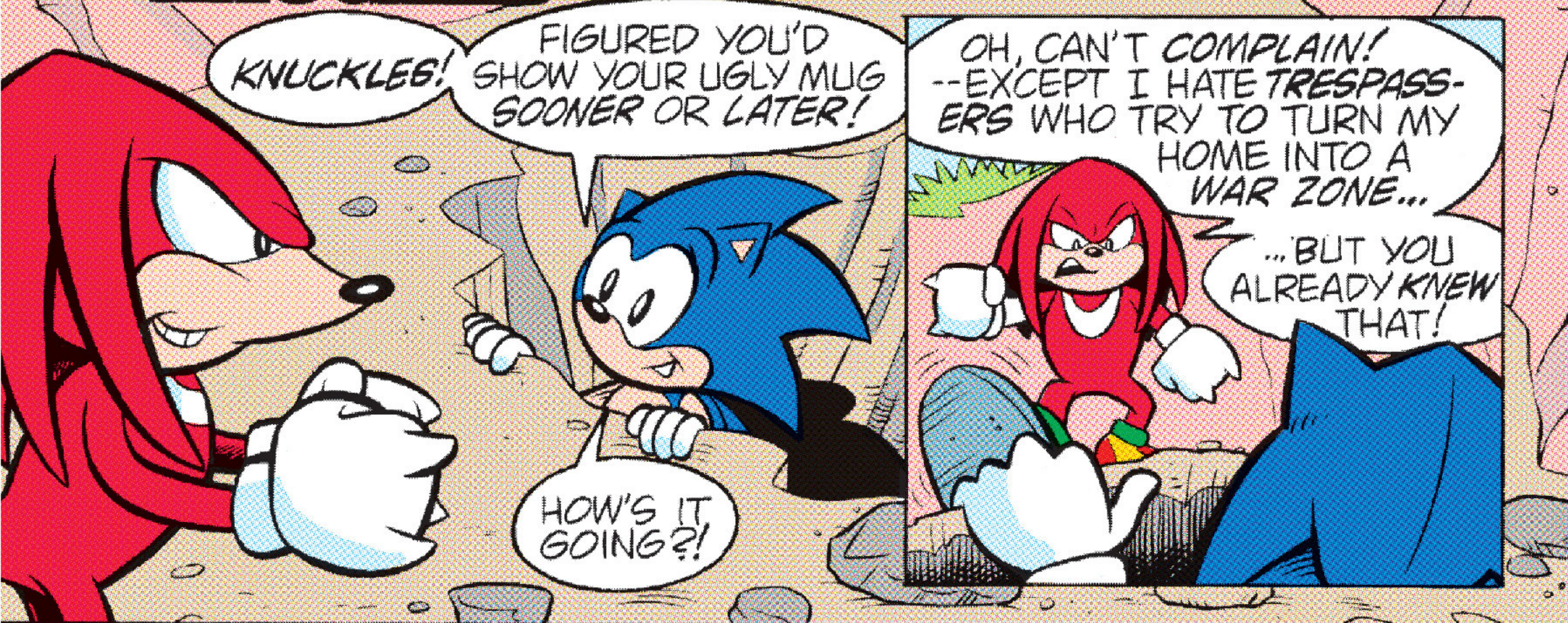


# SONIC & KNUCKLES™

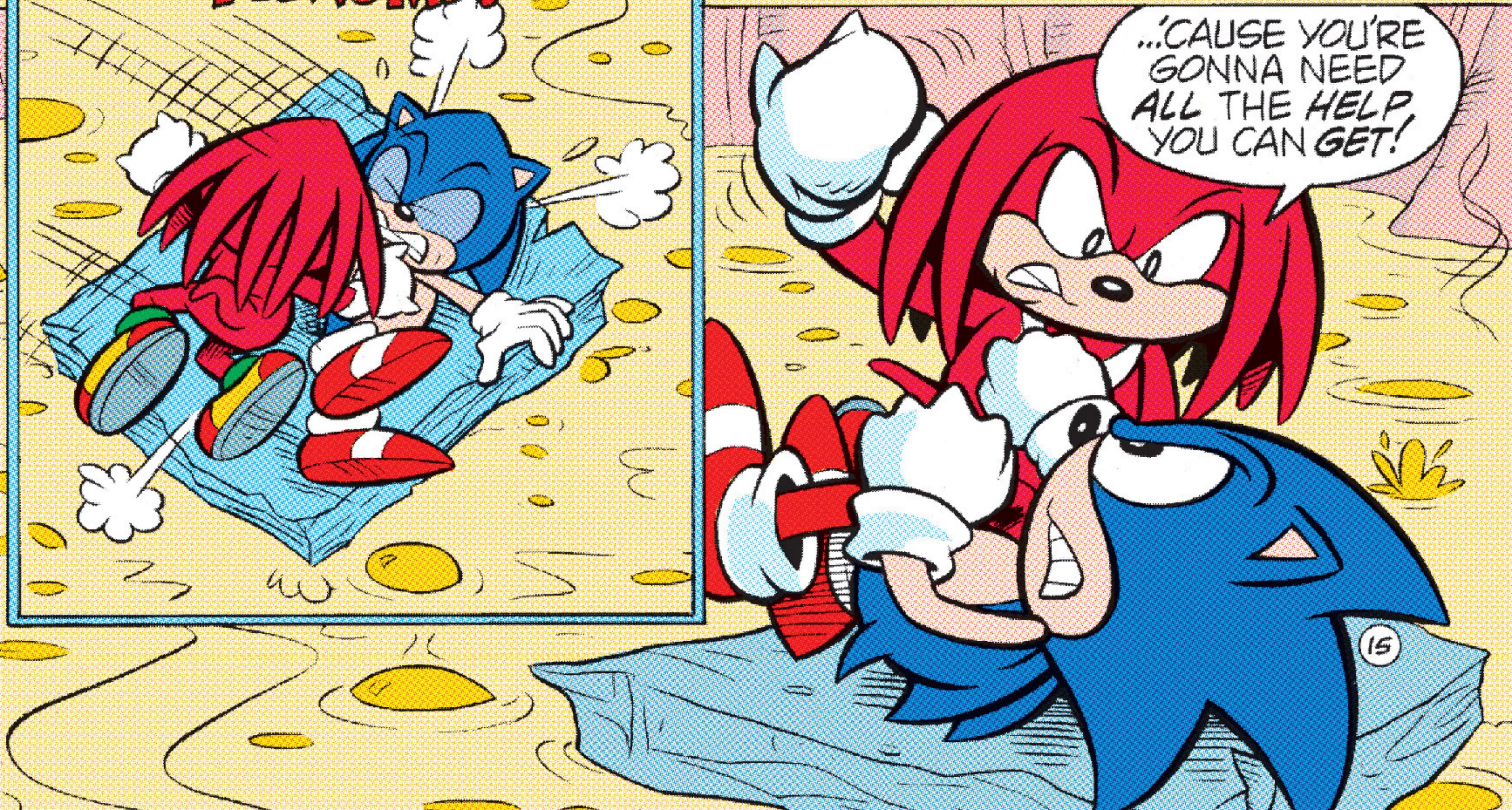
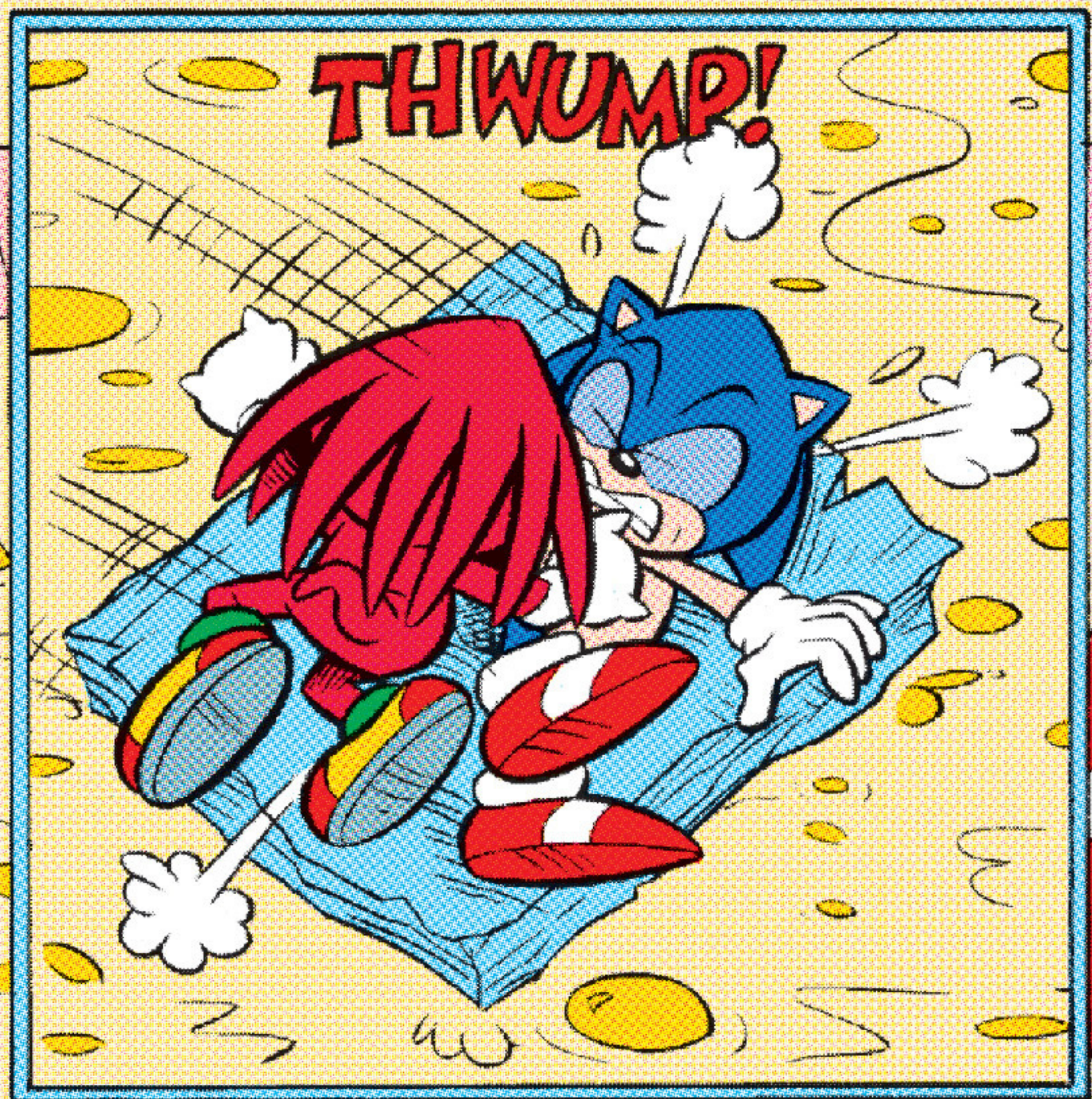
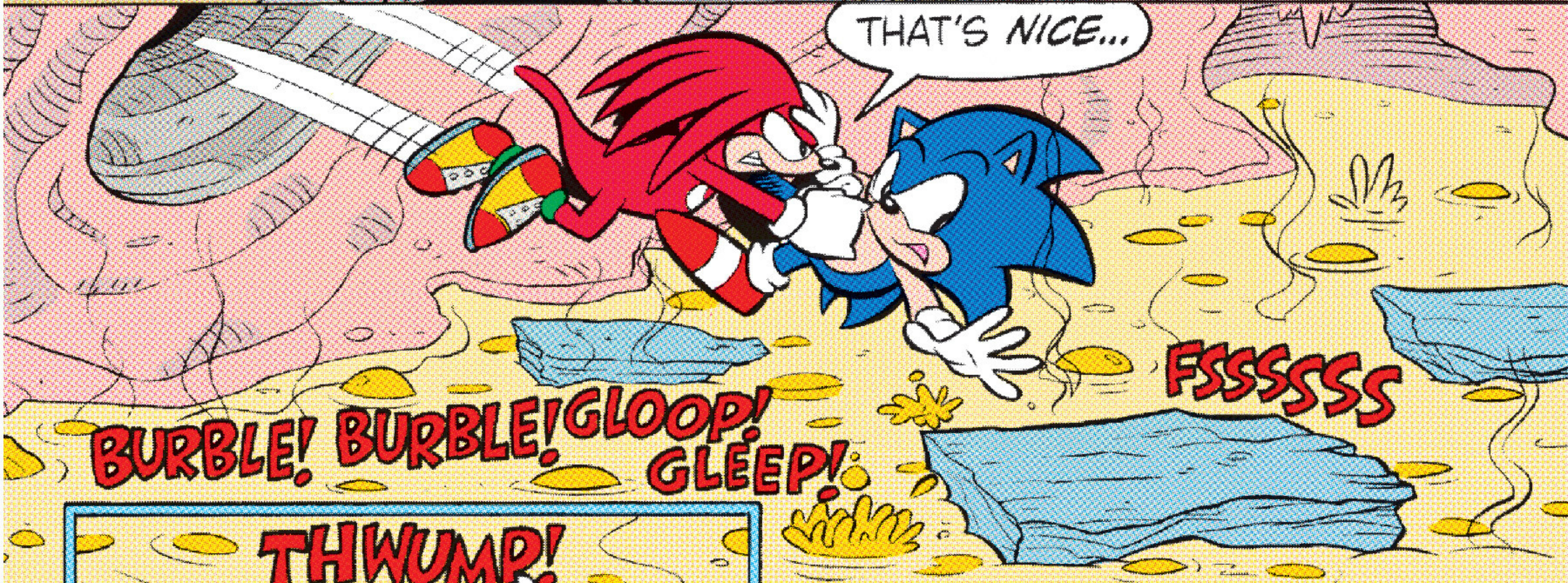
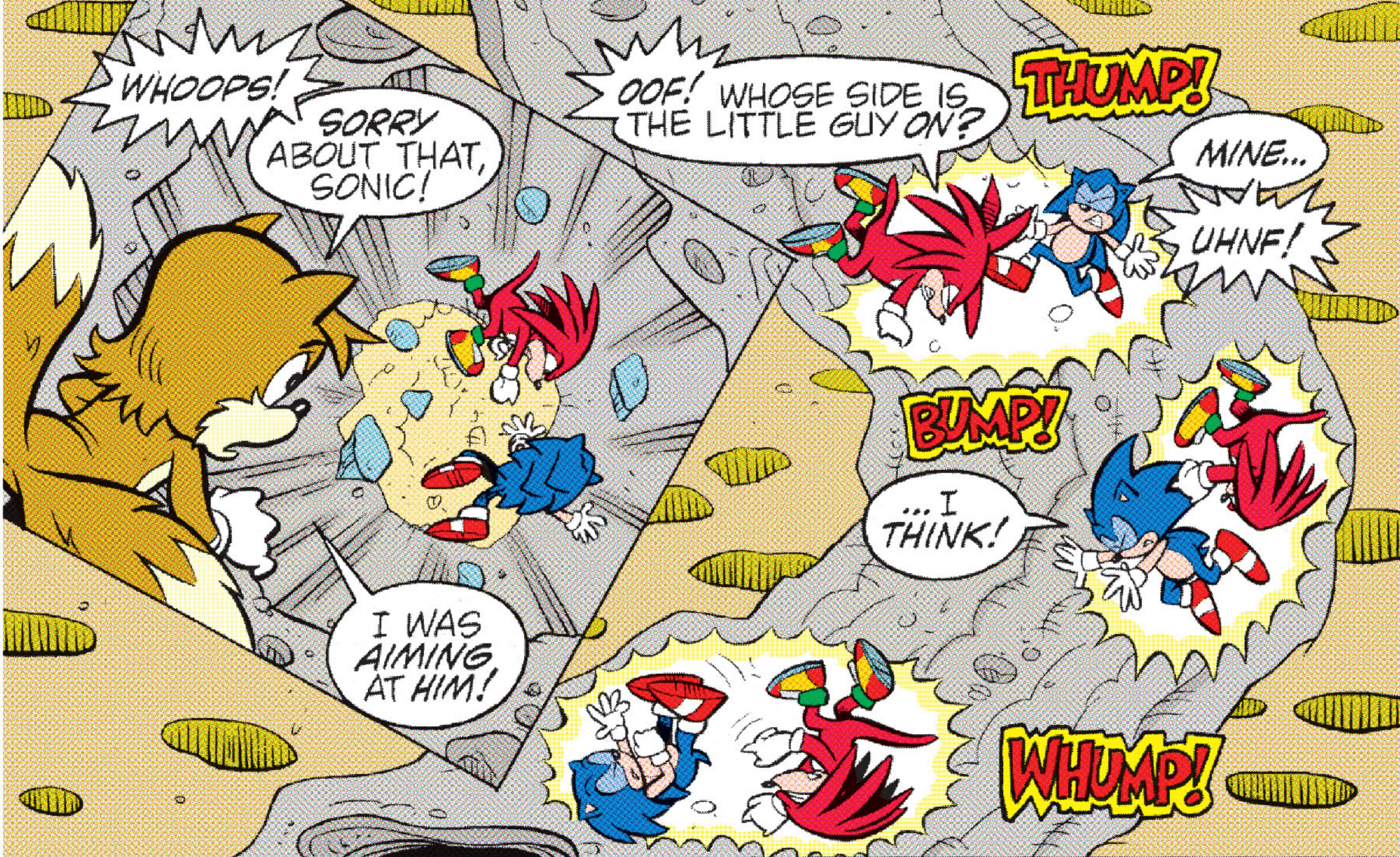
IN

# PANIC IN THE SKY!

PART II

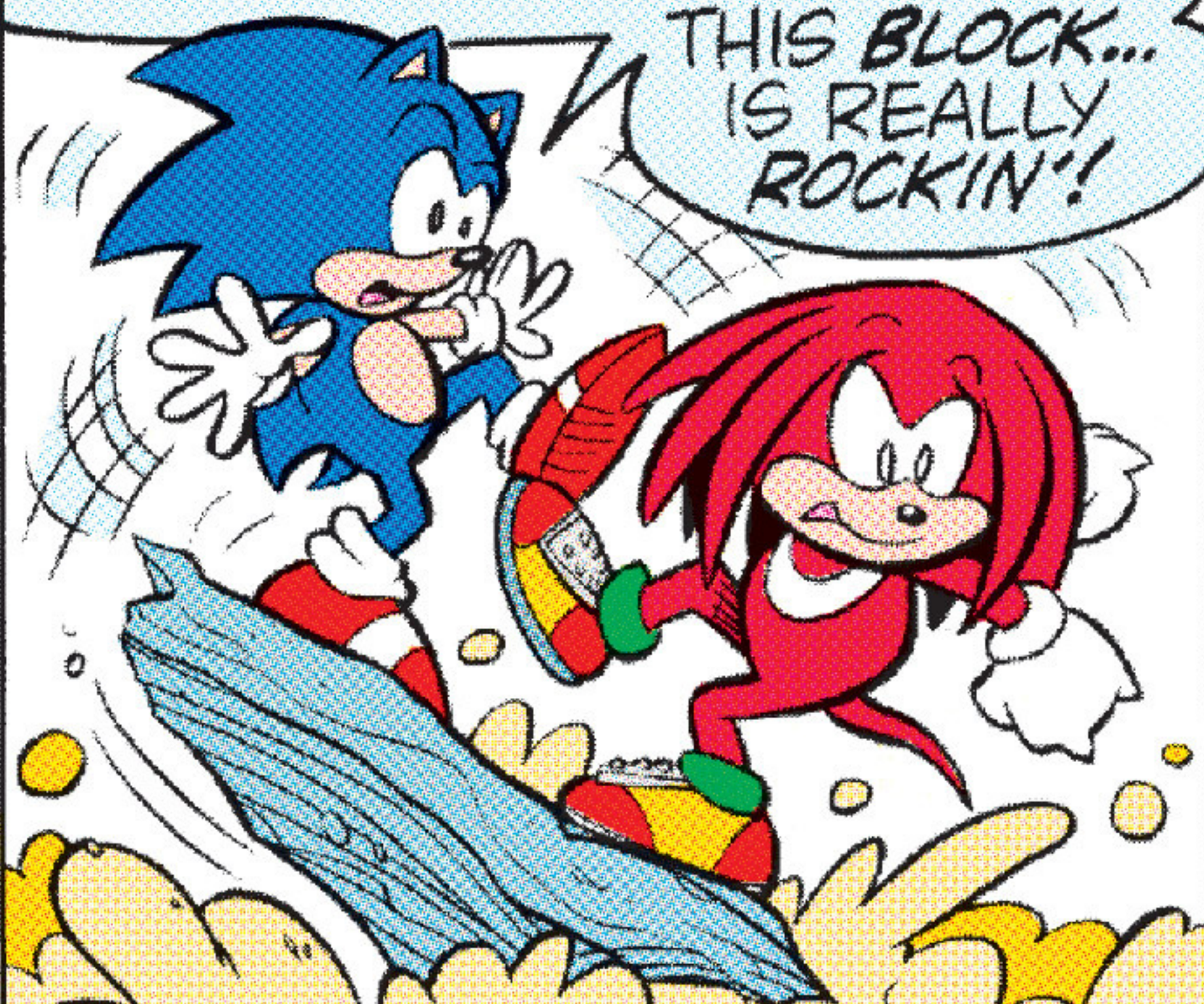






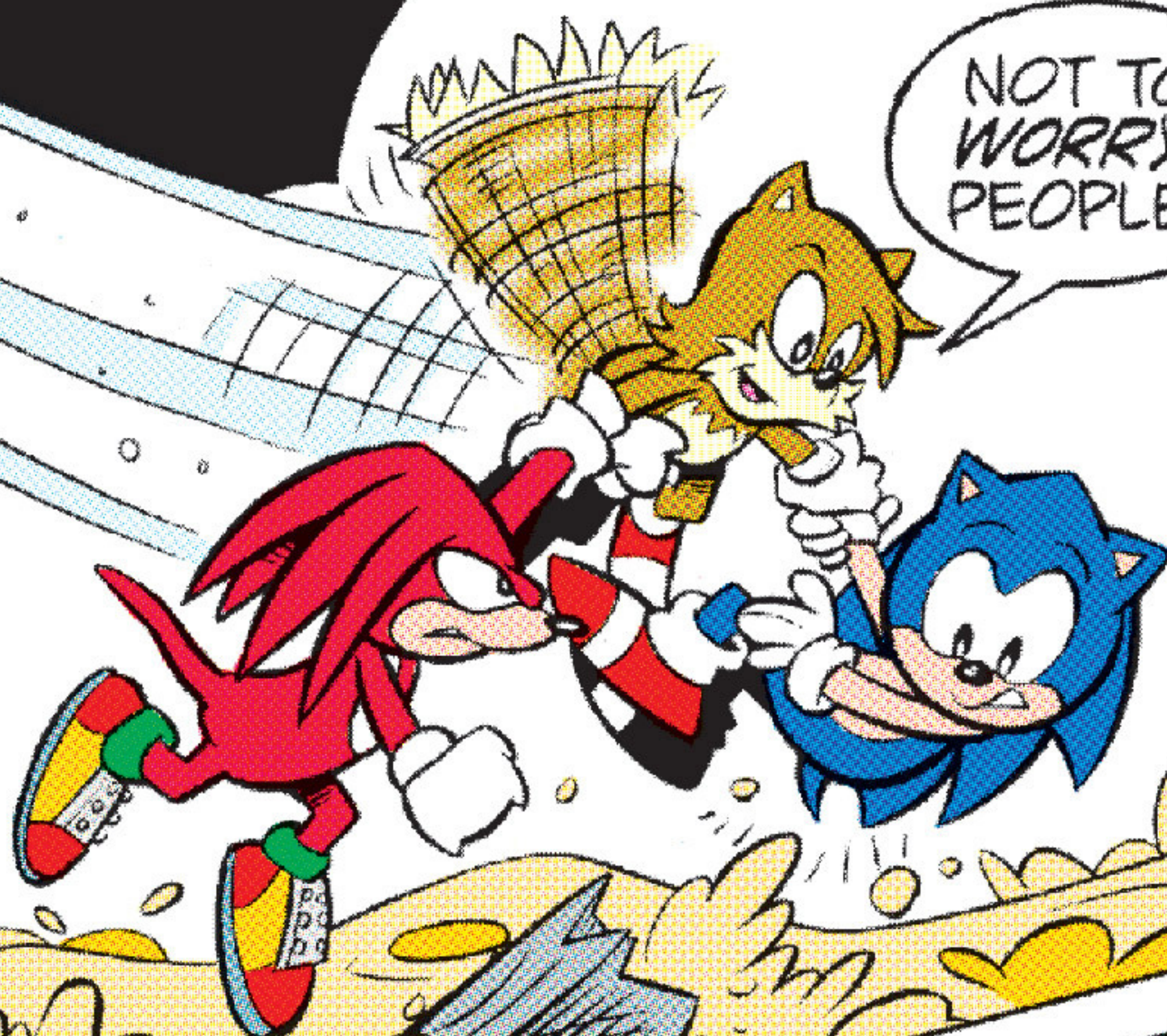


UH--KNUCKLES? I THINK WE'RE BOTH GONNA NEED SOME HELP! THIS BLOCK... IS REALLY ROCKIN'!



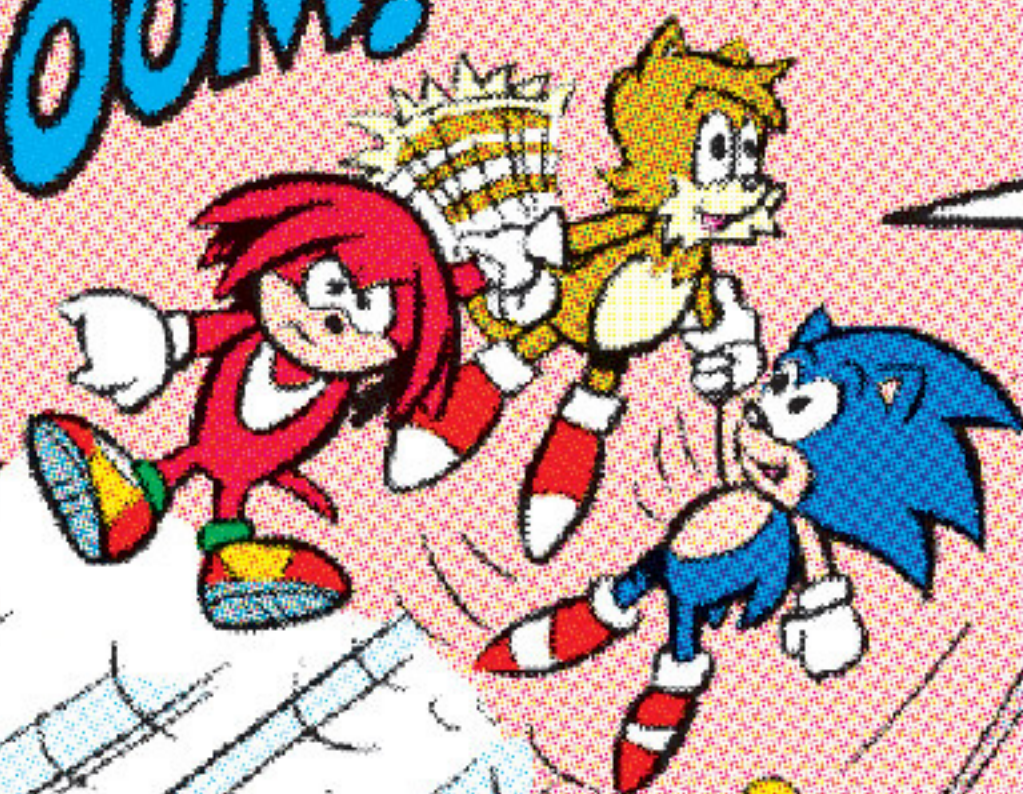
RRRRRUUMMBBLLLLLL

NOT TO WORRY, PEOPLE...



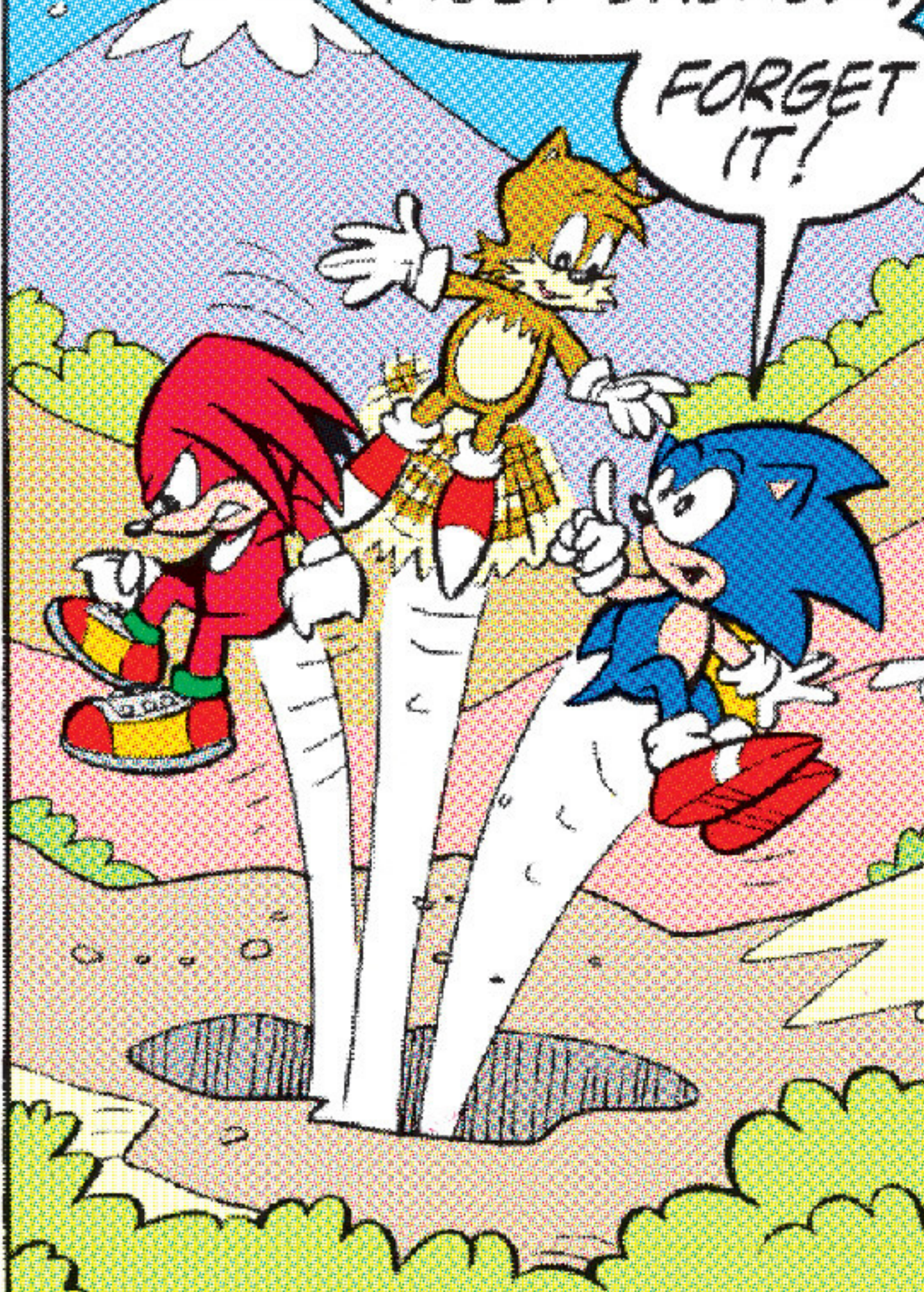
SHOOOOOOM!

... 'CAUSE WE ARE OUTTA HERE!



THANKS, PAL!

REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT BEING "PIGGY-BACKED"? FORGET IT!



YEAH, THANKS, PAL! I'M PRETTY GOOD AT FLYING AND GLIDING -- BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD GET ENOUGH ALTITUDE!

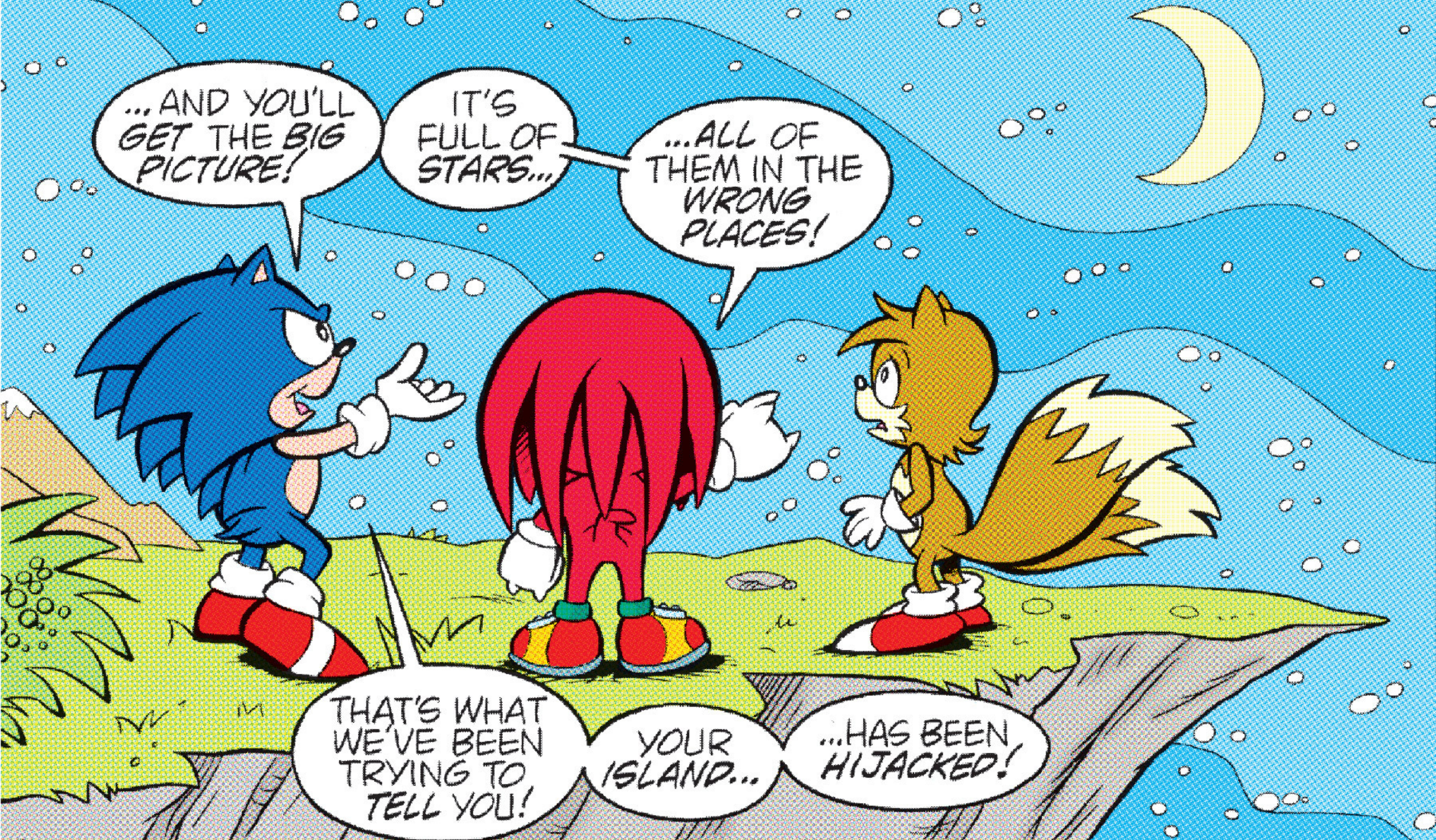


HOWEVER, I STILL HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT MY HOME FROM INTRUDERS!

AGREED! BUT WE'RE NOT THE ENEMY! LOOK! UP IN THE SKY...







...AND YOU'LL  
GET THE BIG  
PICTURE!

IT'S  
FULL OF  
STARS...

...ALL OF  
THEM IN THE  
WRONG  
PLACES!

THAT'S WHAT  
WE'VE BEEN  
TRYING TO  
TELL YOU!


YOUR  
ISLAND...

...HAS BEEN  
HIJACKED!

BY NOW, WE'RE  
OVER KNOTHOLE  
VILLAGE--'COURSE  
IT'S DARK, SO  
NOBODY'D NOTICE!

SOMEONE'S REFITTED  
THE UNDERSIDE OF  
YOUR ISLAND WITH  
ENGINES...AND GUNS!

THAT'S  
WHY WE'RE  
HERE!

D'OH!  FOOLED AGAIN!  
THE FLOATING ISLAND  
HAS BEEN TURNED INTO  
A FLYING FORTRESS!

BUT  
WHO..?

WELL, THEY  
WON'T GET  
AWAY WITH  
IT!

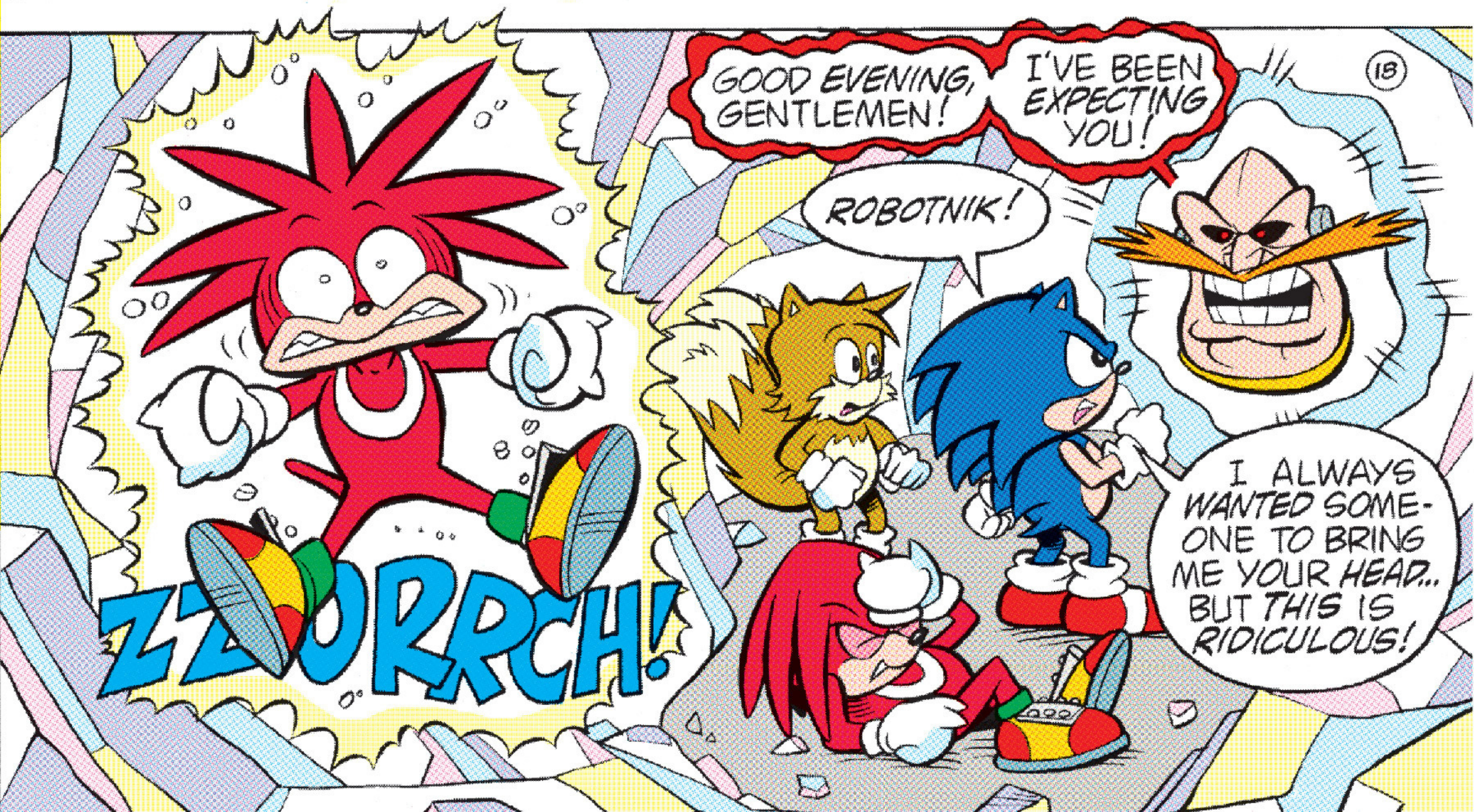
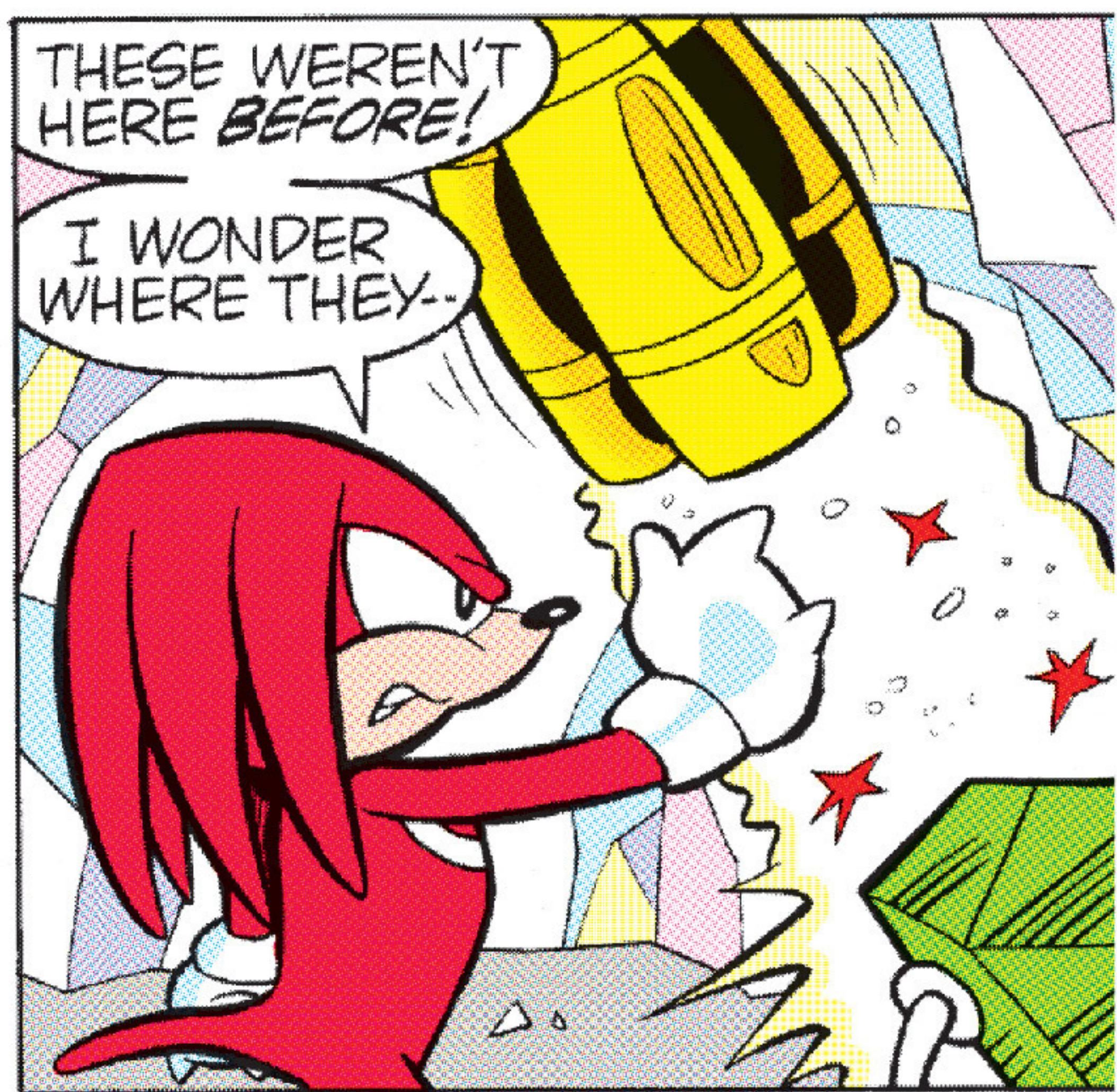
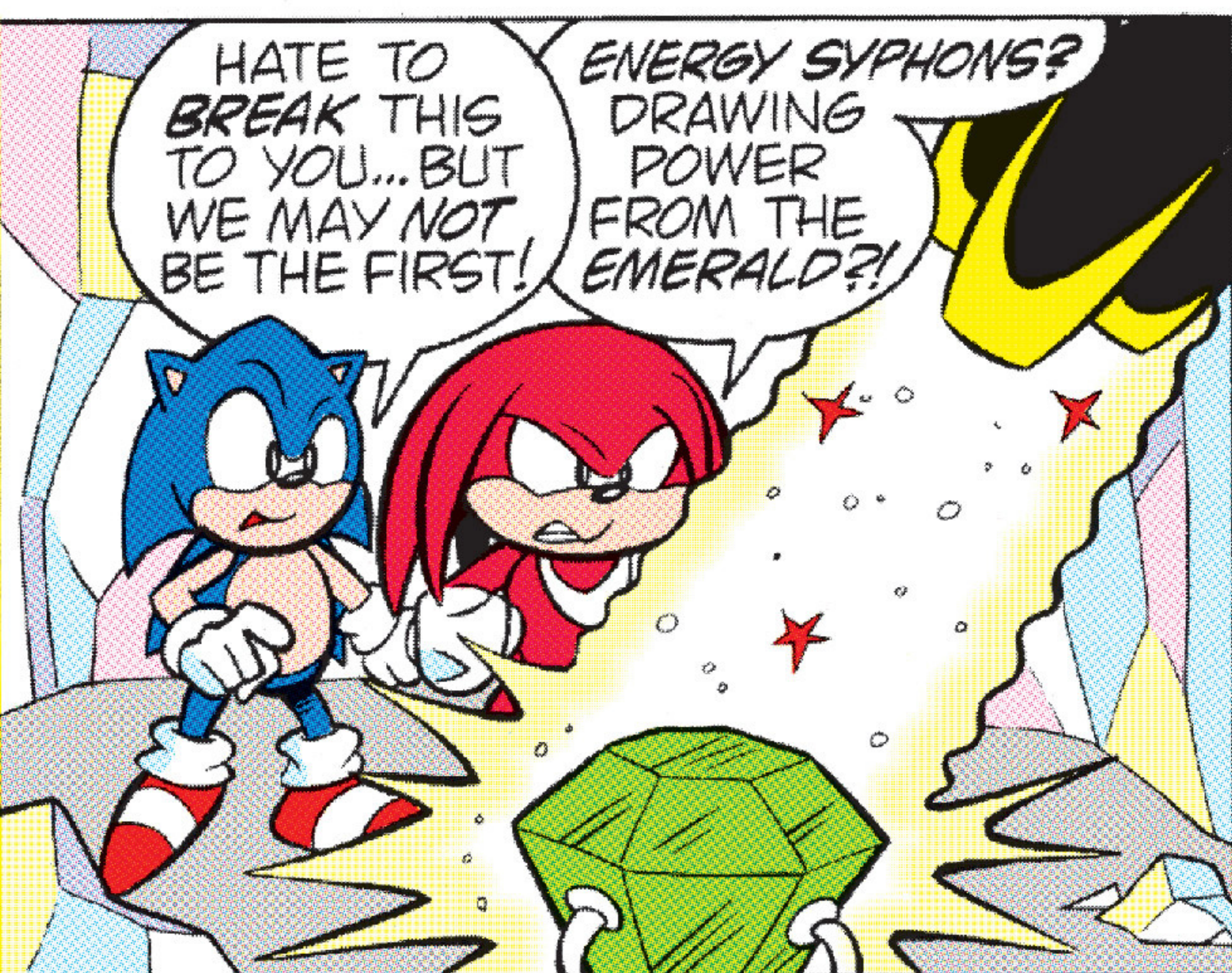
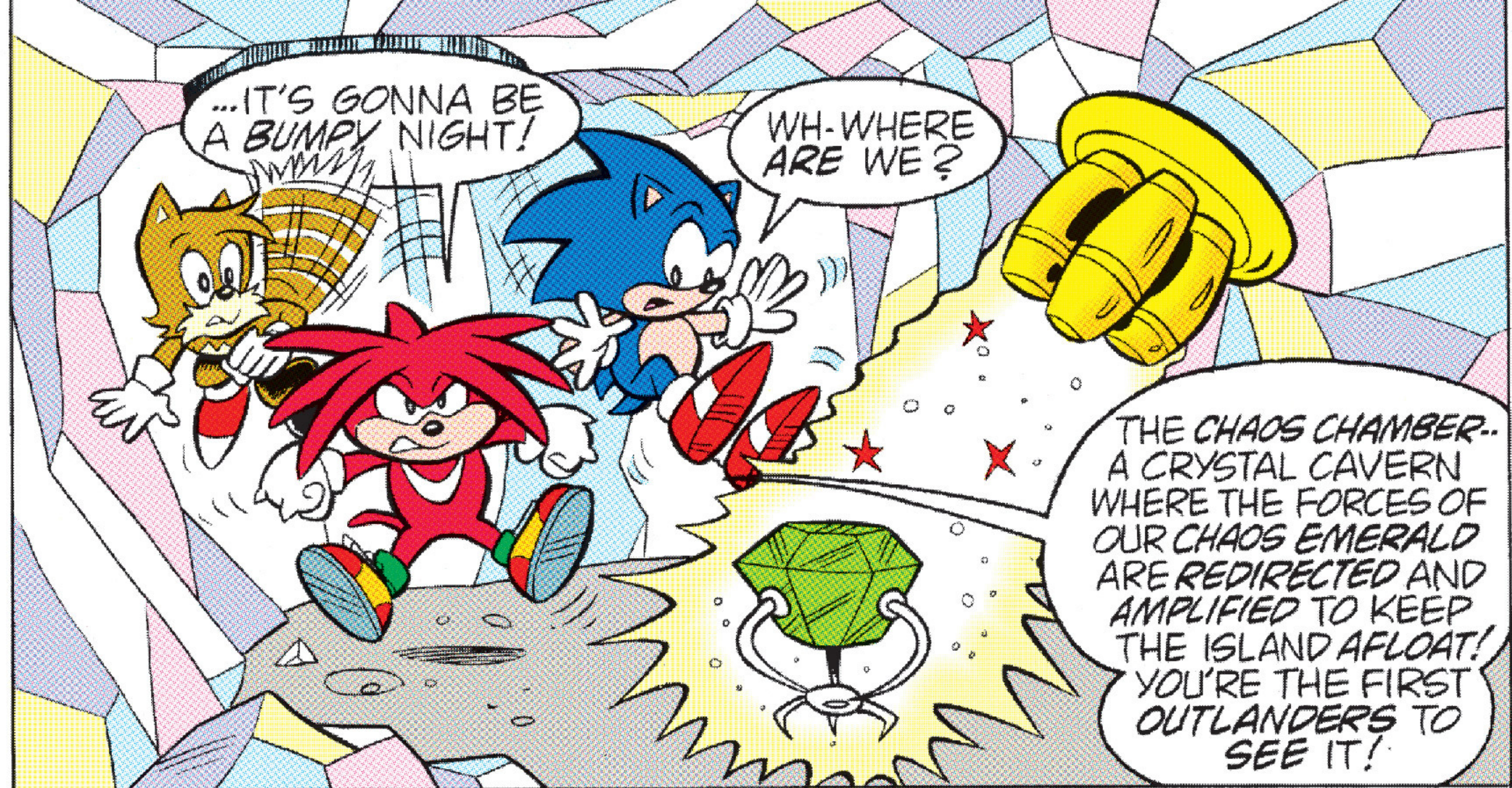
FASTEN  
YOUR SEAT-  
BELTS...

**FWIP!**

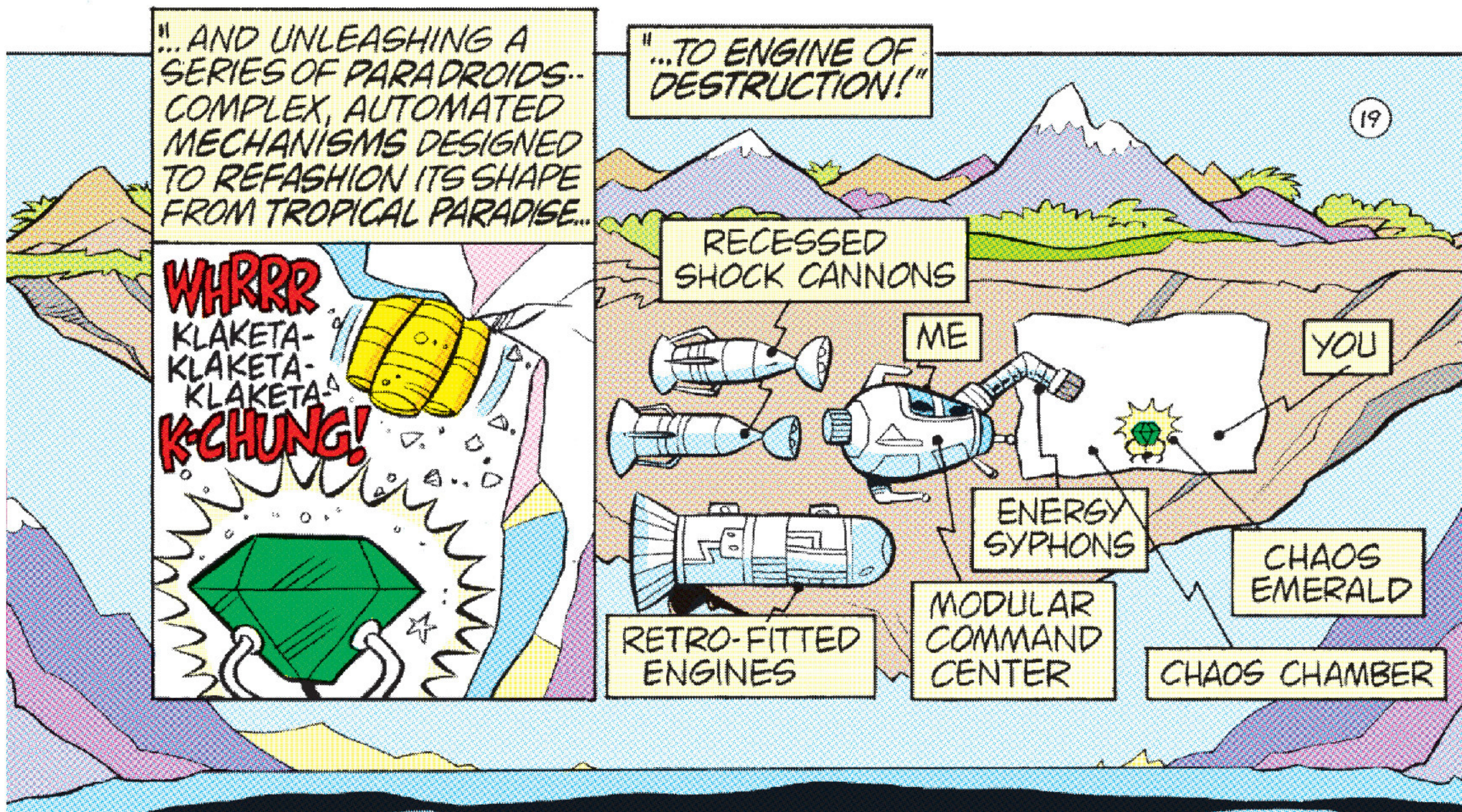
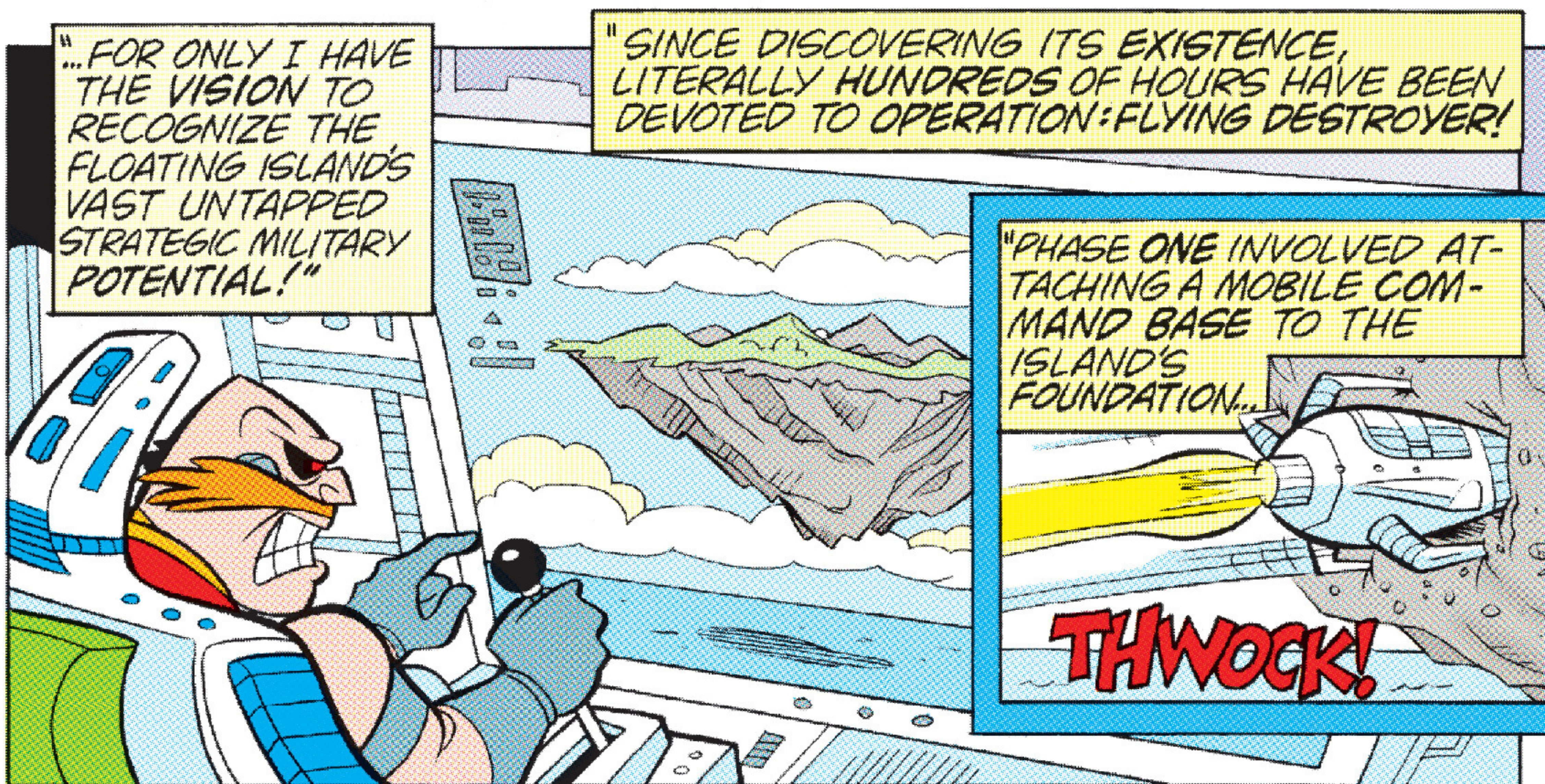
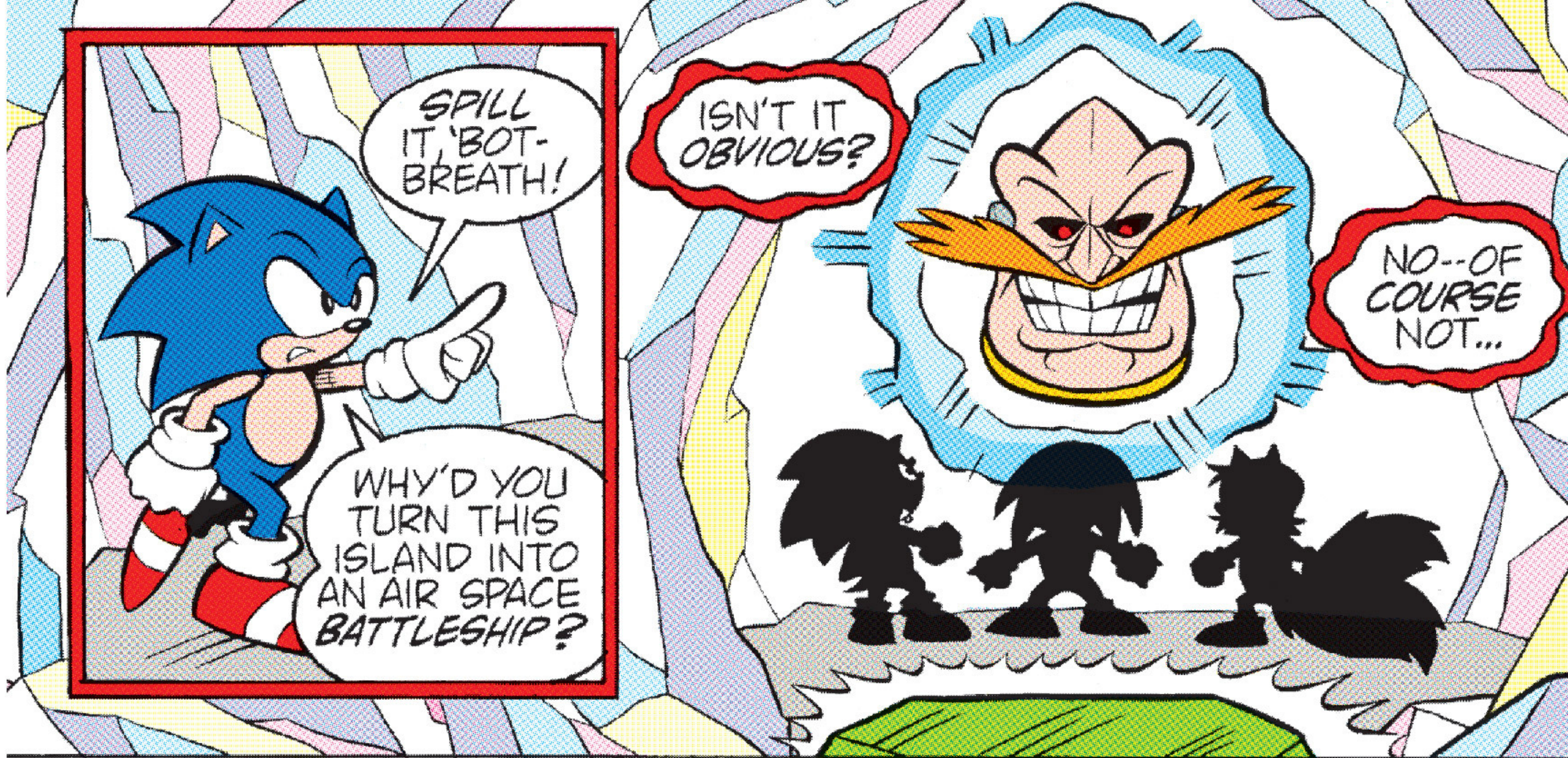
ZOOT CHUTE  
EASY ACCESS  
TO THE  
CHAOS  
CHAMBER  
WATCH YOUR  
STEP!













"AND SPEAKING OF 'ENGINES'..."

"USING POWER FROM THE CHAOS EMERALD TO FUEL THEM..."

"...I BEGAN TO MOVE MY FRESHLY-ARMED WEAPON OF WAR DUE EAST..."

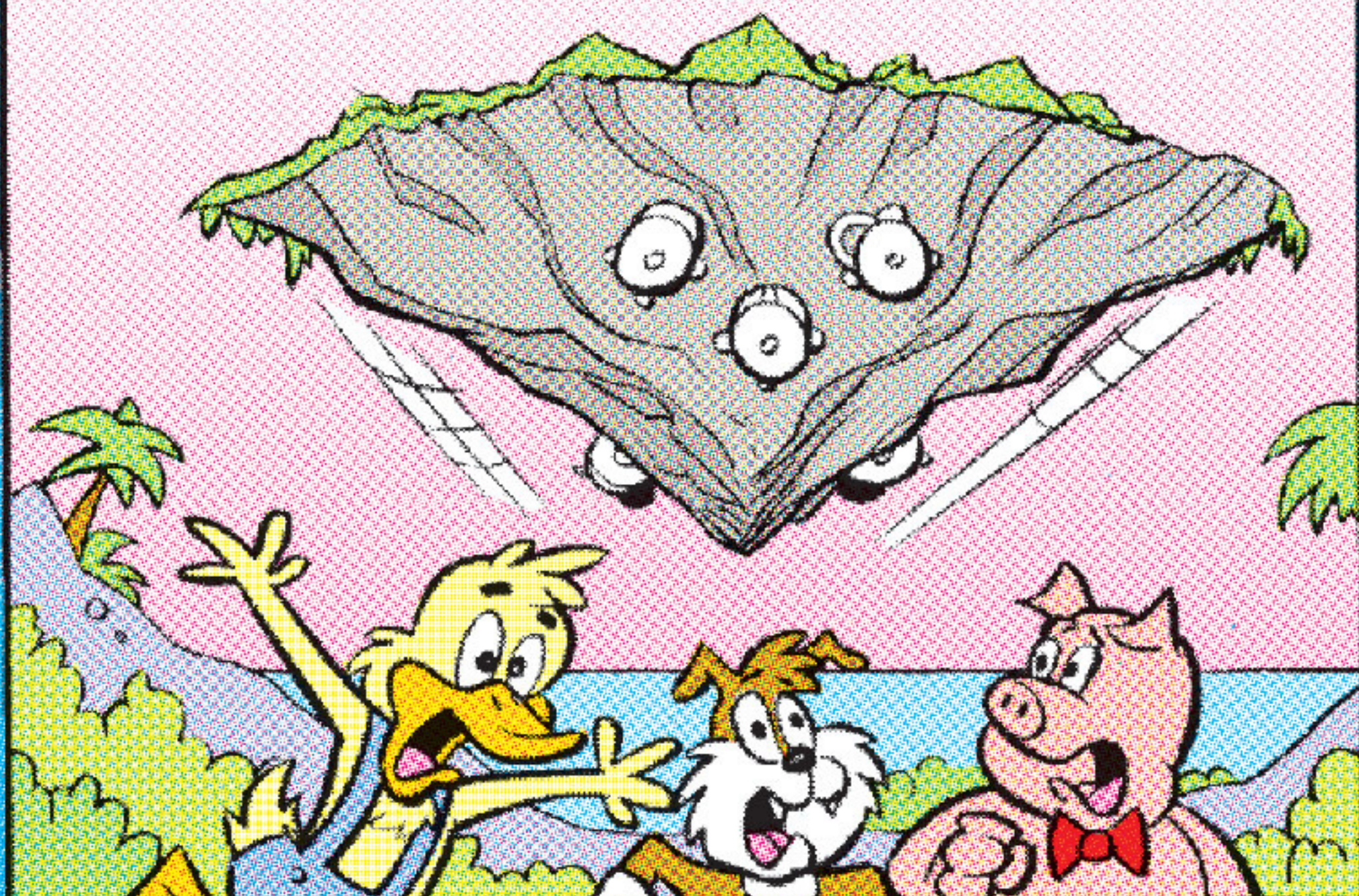
"...TOWARD KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!"

KNOTHOLE VILLAGE

FLOATING ISLAND

PROJECTED TRAJECTORY

"IN MERE MOMENTS-- ONCE THE ISLAND IS DIRECTLY OVERHEAD-- THE SHOCK-CANNONS MOUNTED ALONG ITS UNDERSIDE SHALL FIRE!"



"AND THEN..."

K-CHUNG!

WHRRR K-CHUKT!

K-CHUKT!

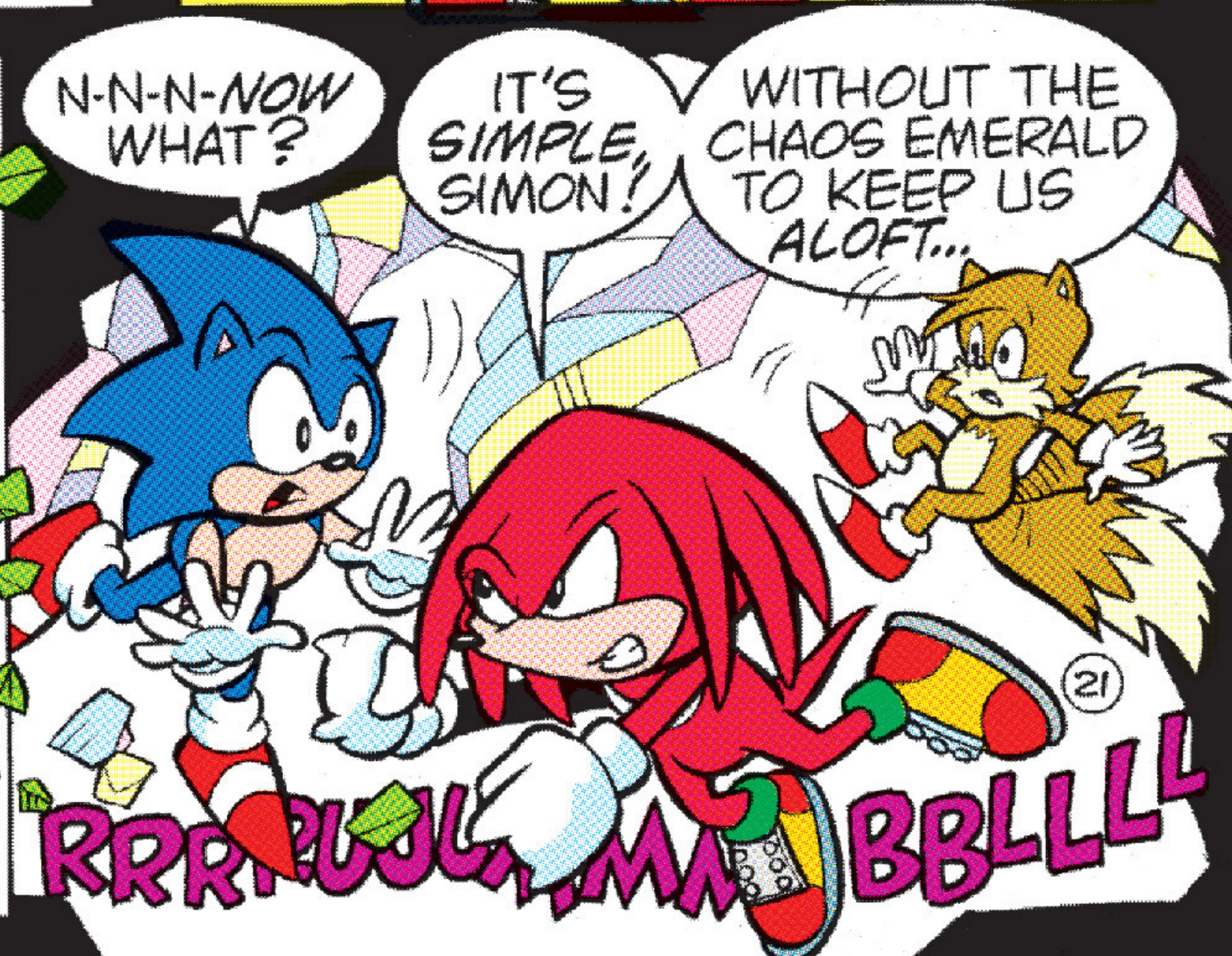
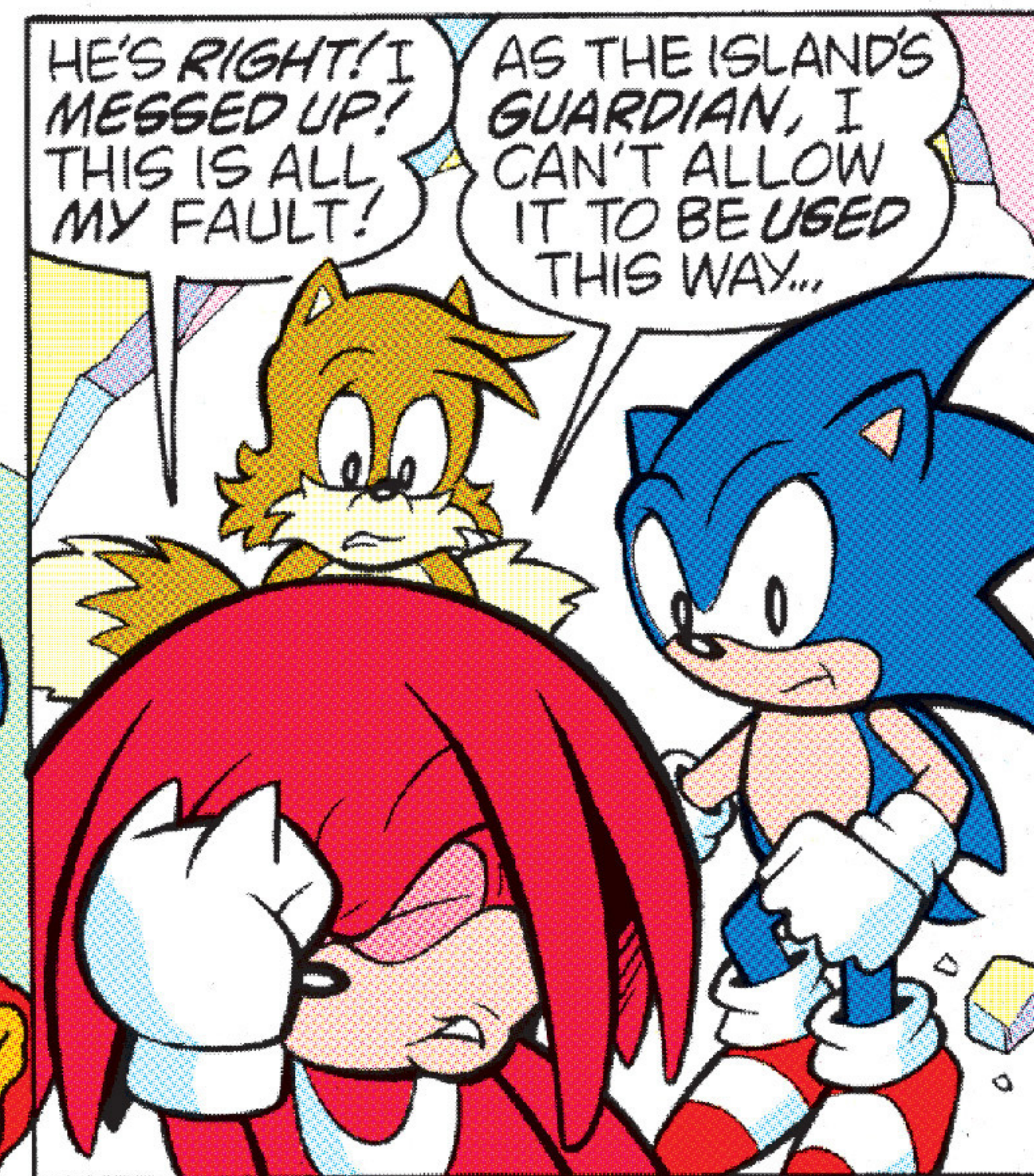
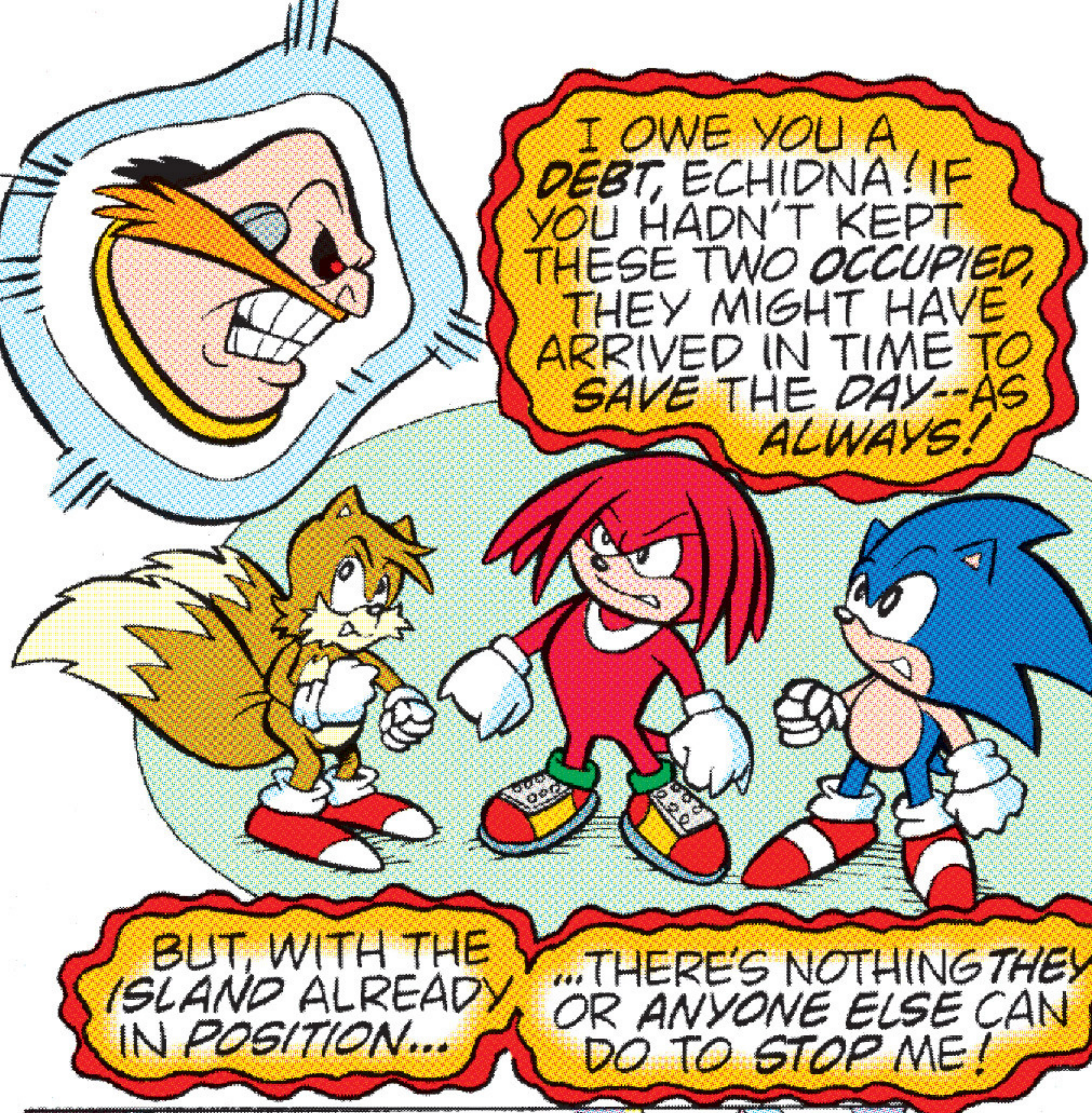
K-CHUKT!

FWA-VOOOOOOM!

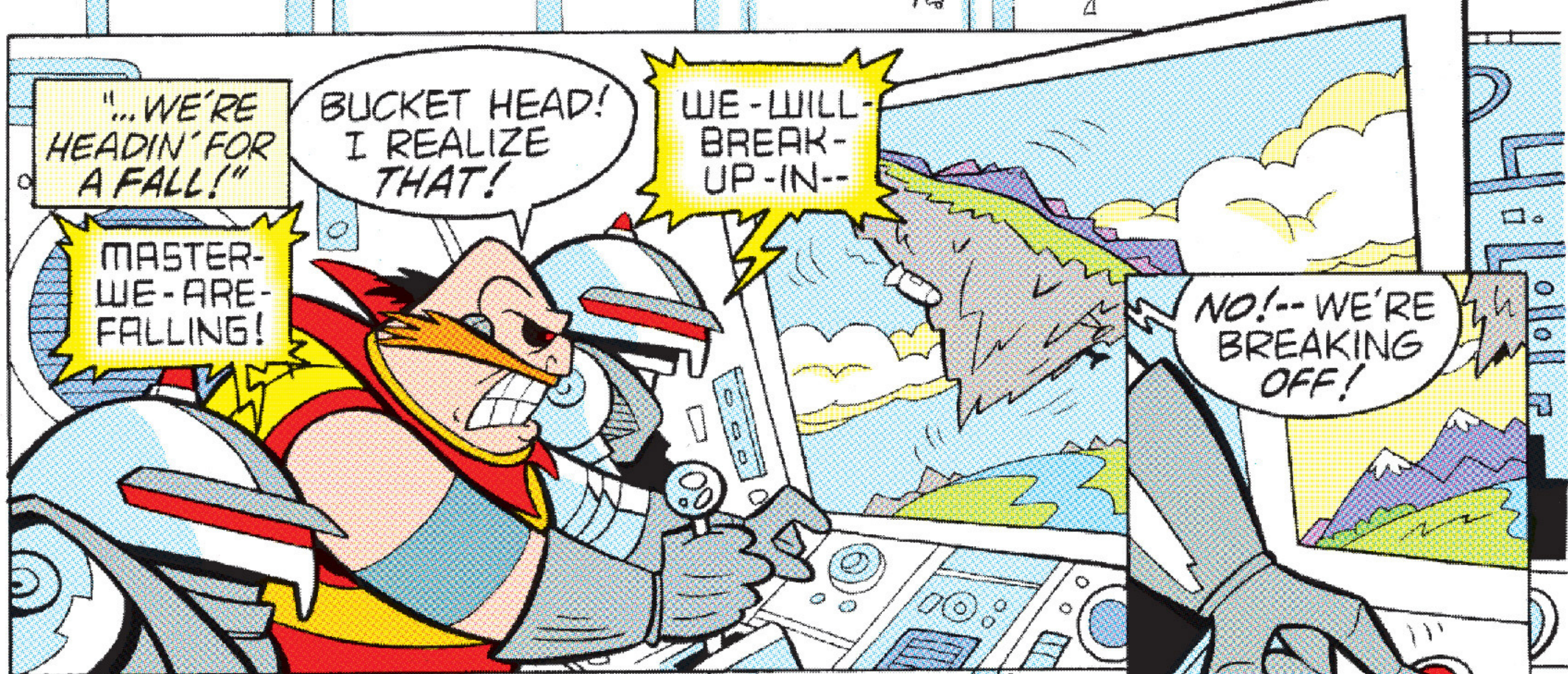


HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

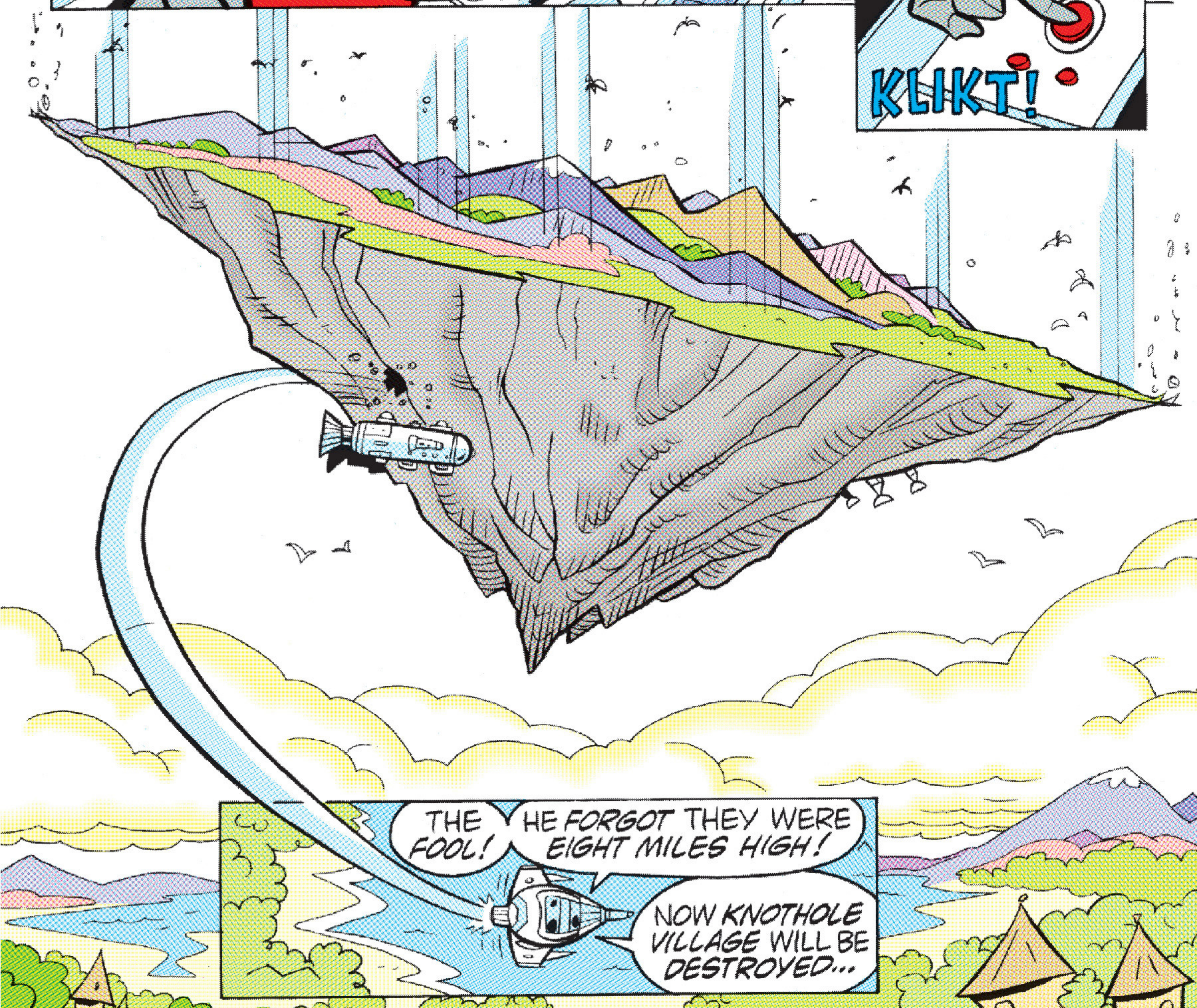








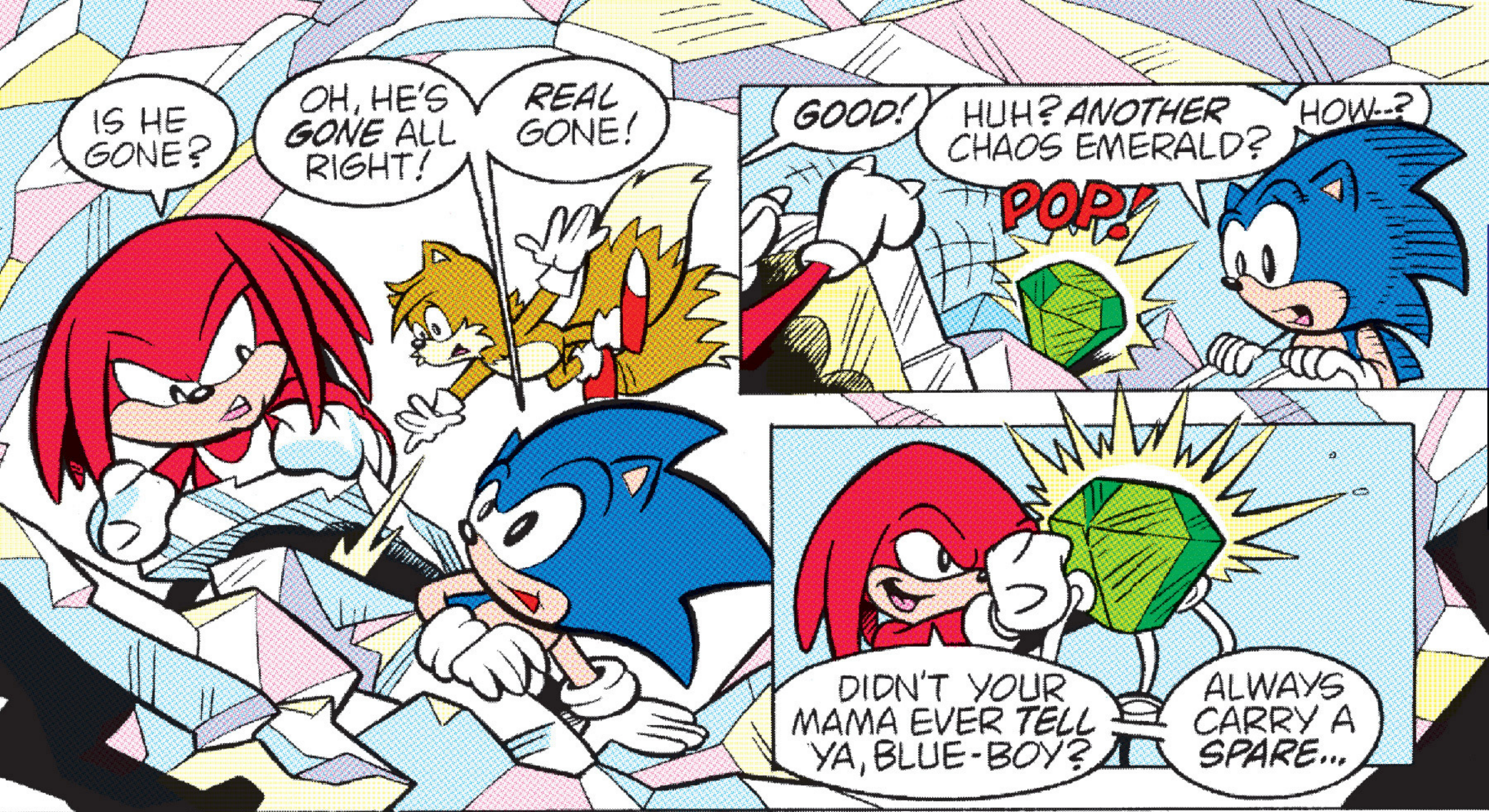
KLIKT!



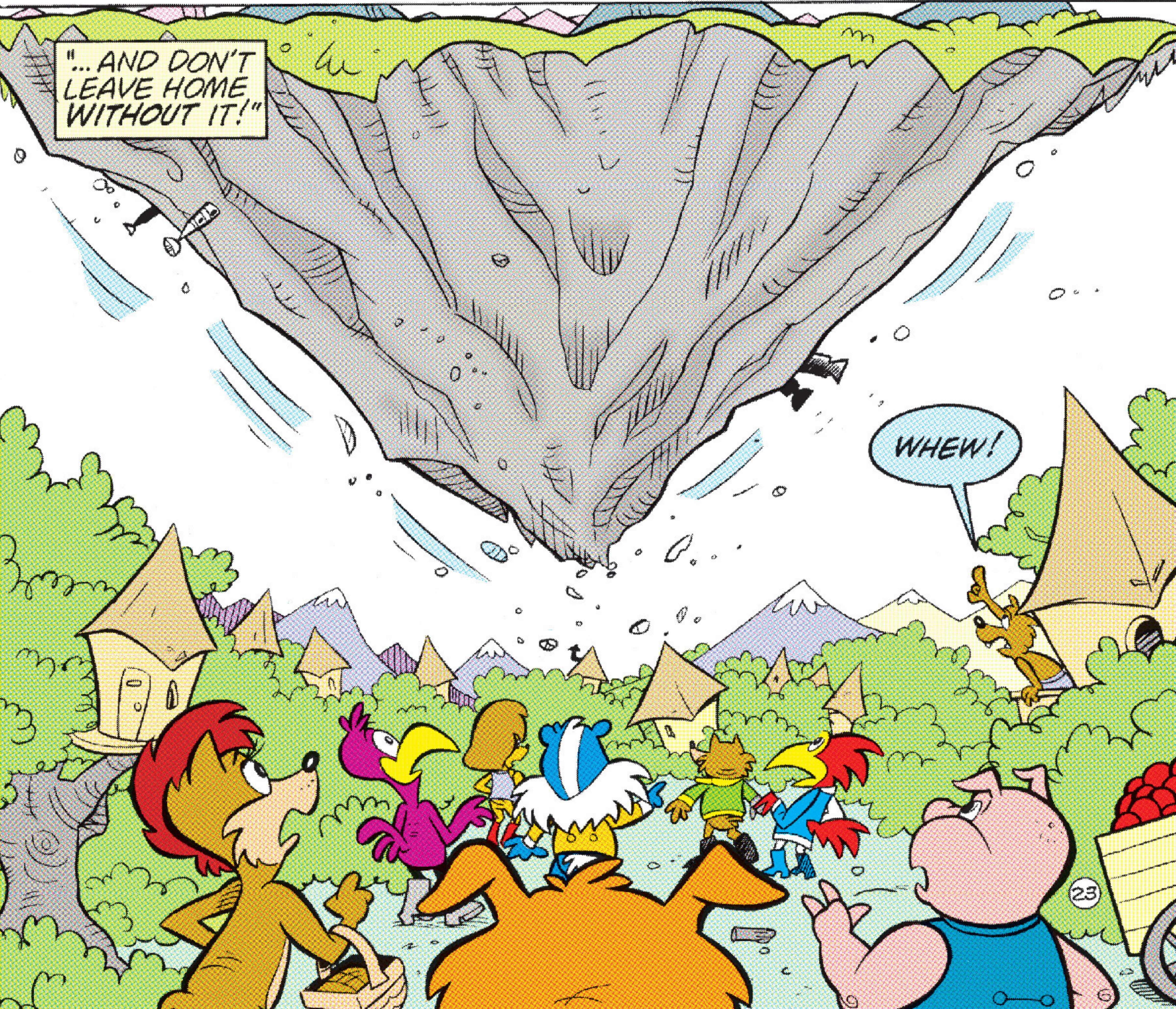
...WITHOUT ME HAVING TO FIRE A SINGLE SHOT!

HA HA HA HA HA

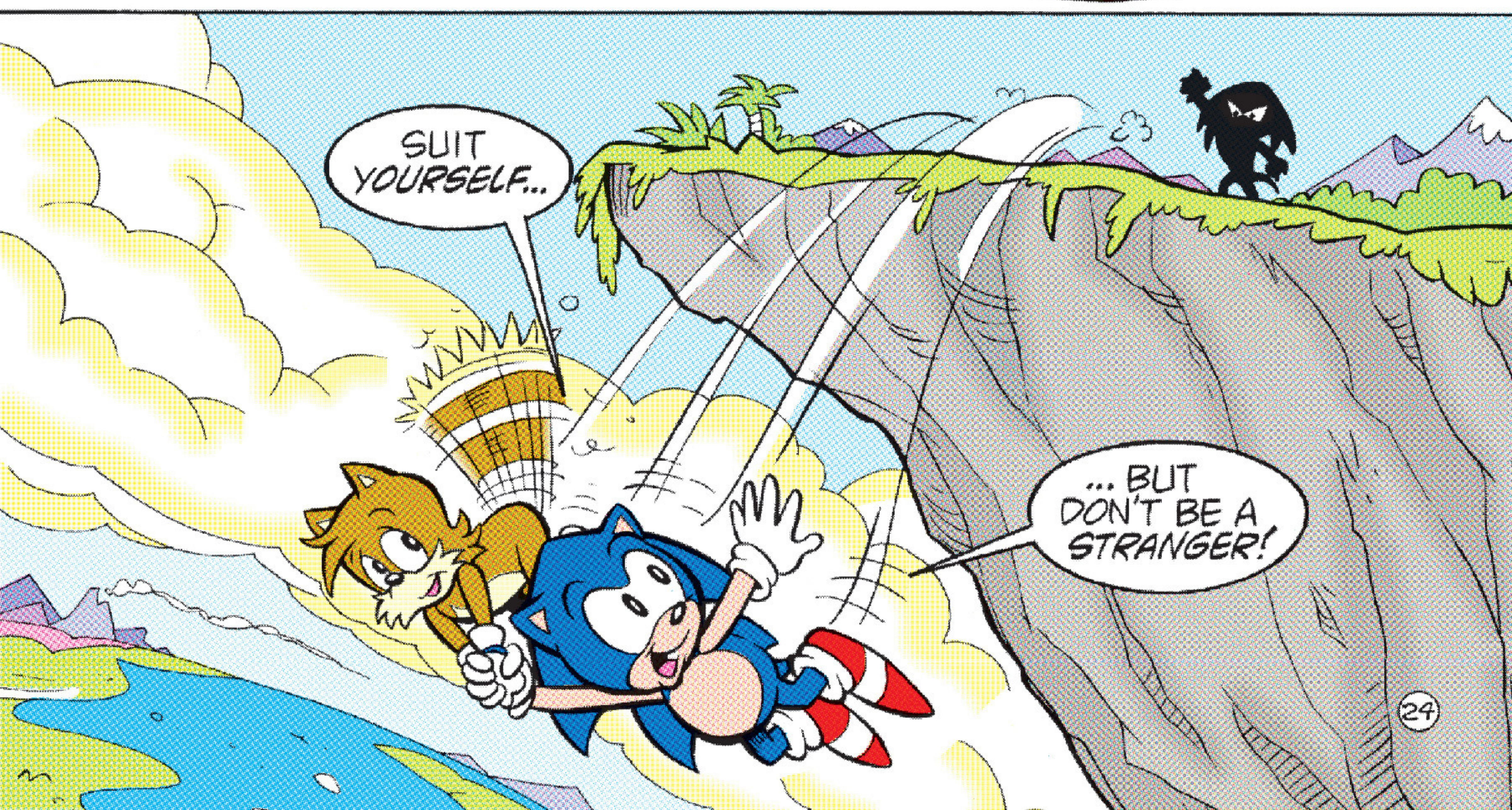
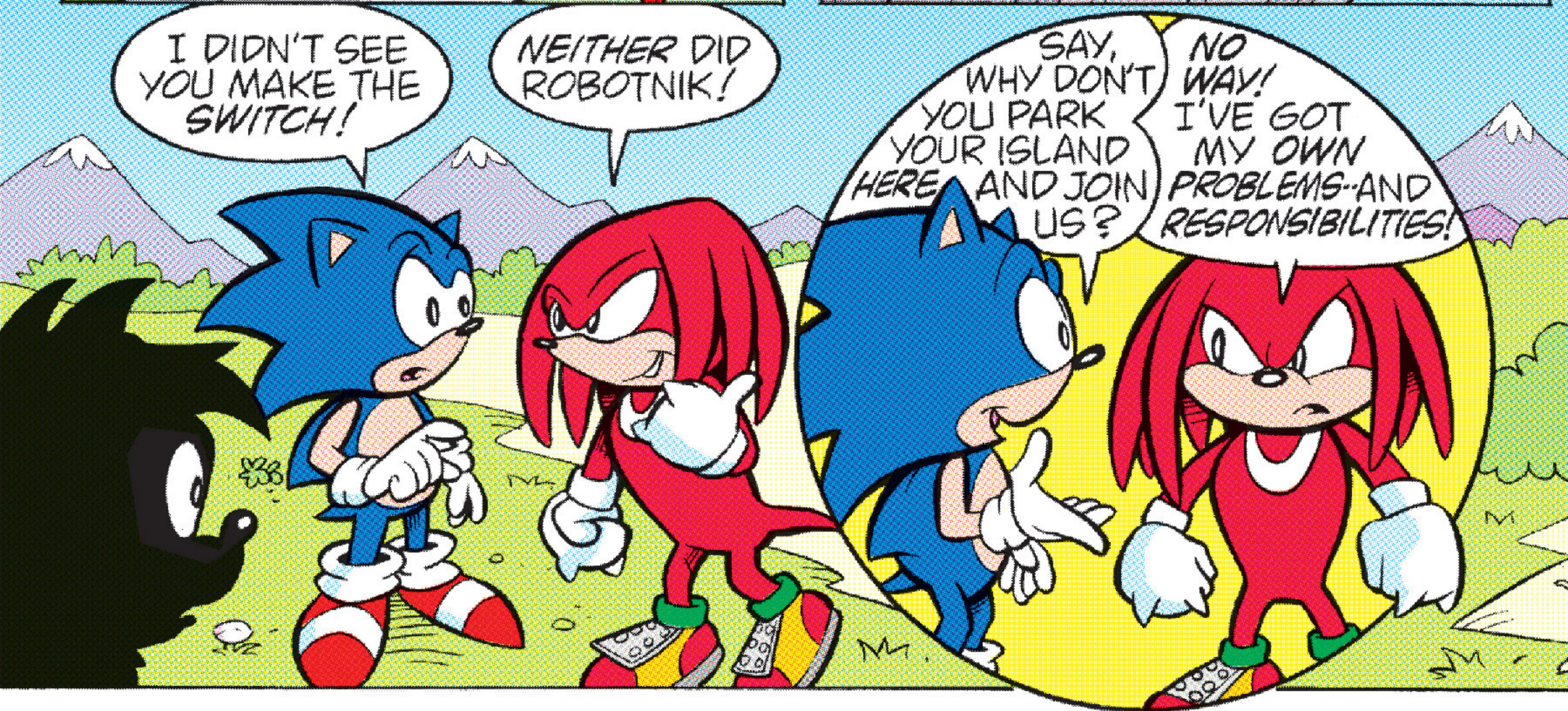
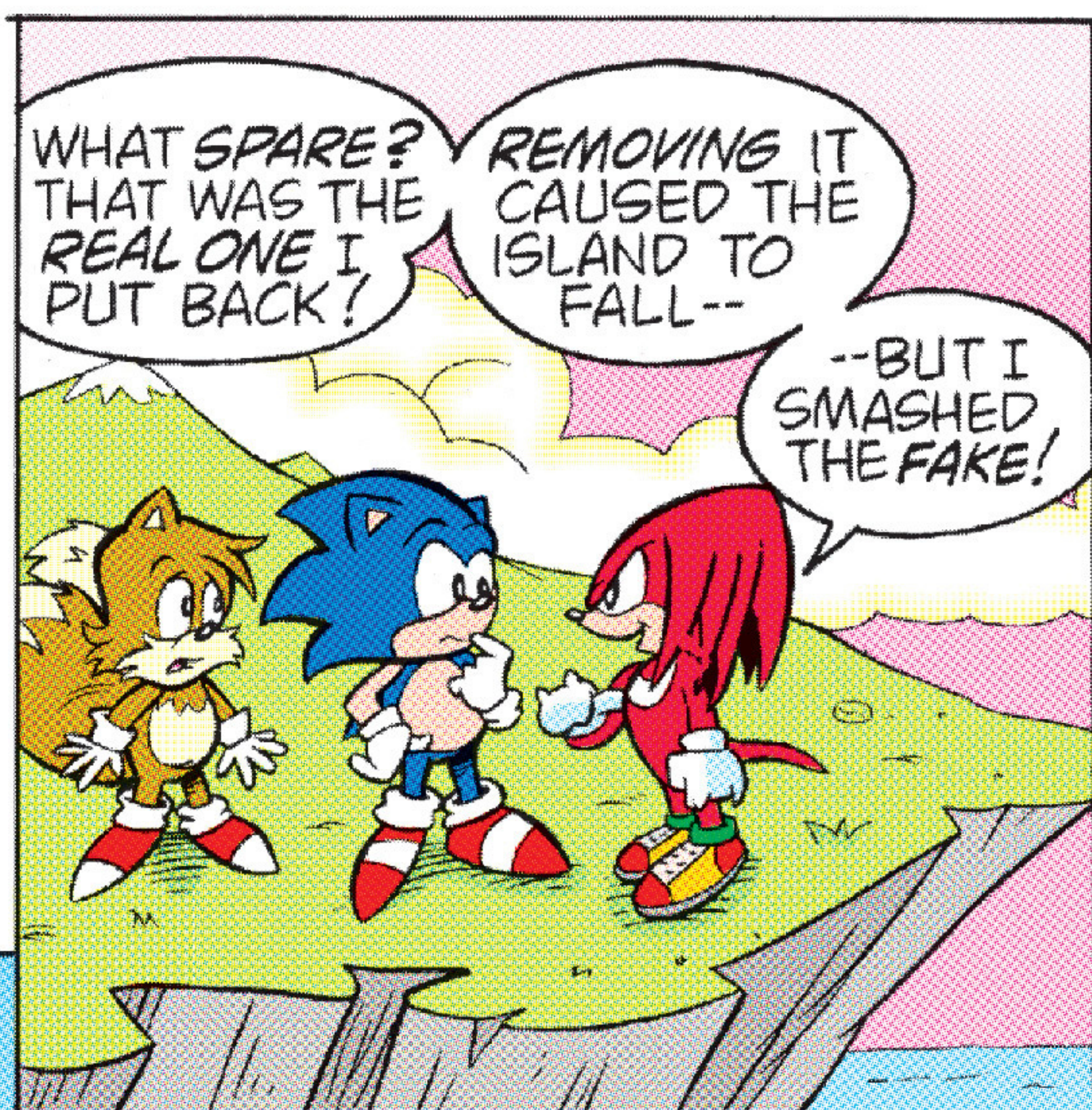
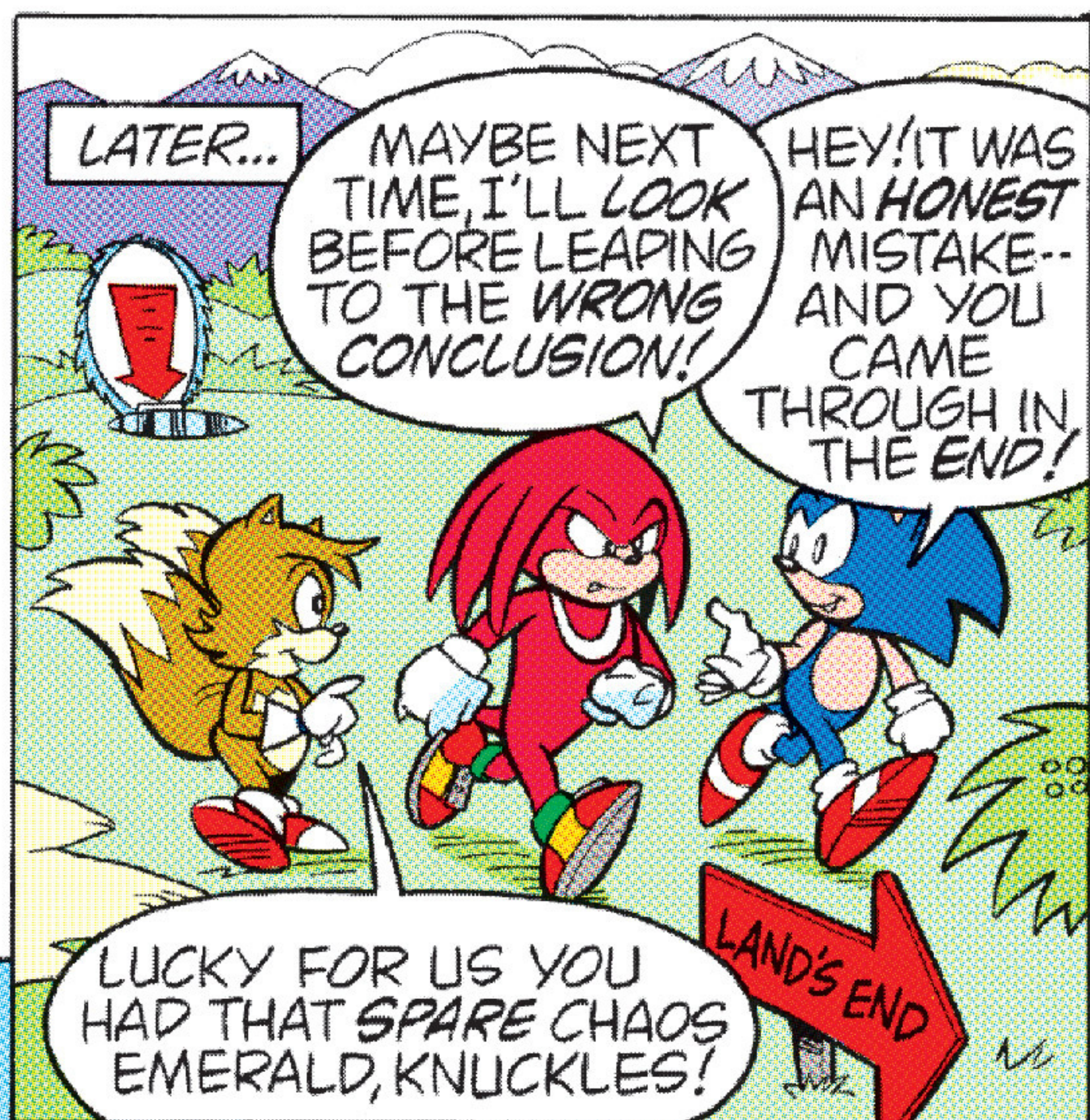




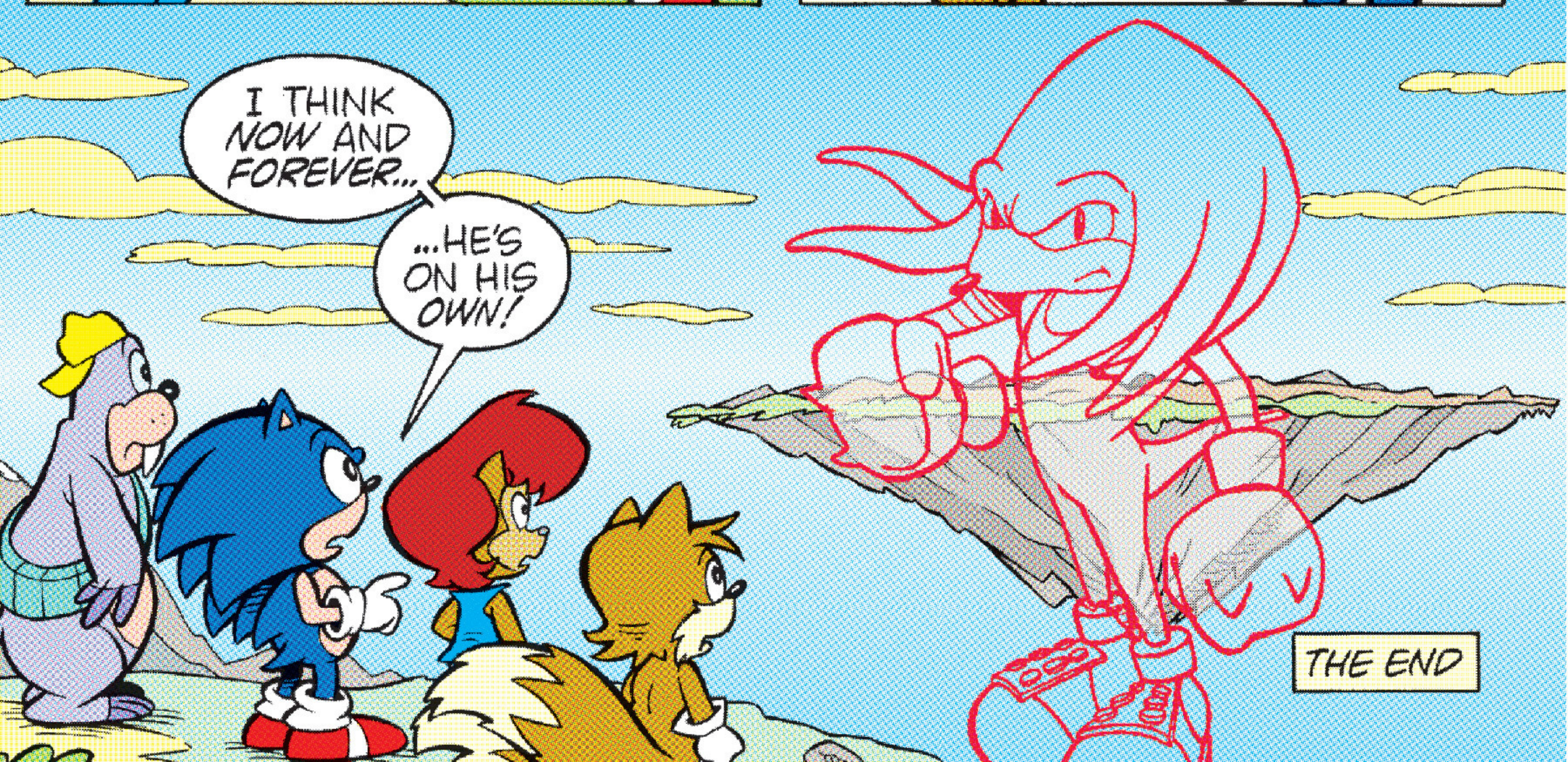
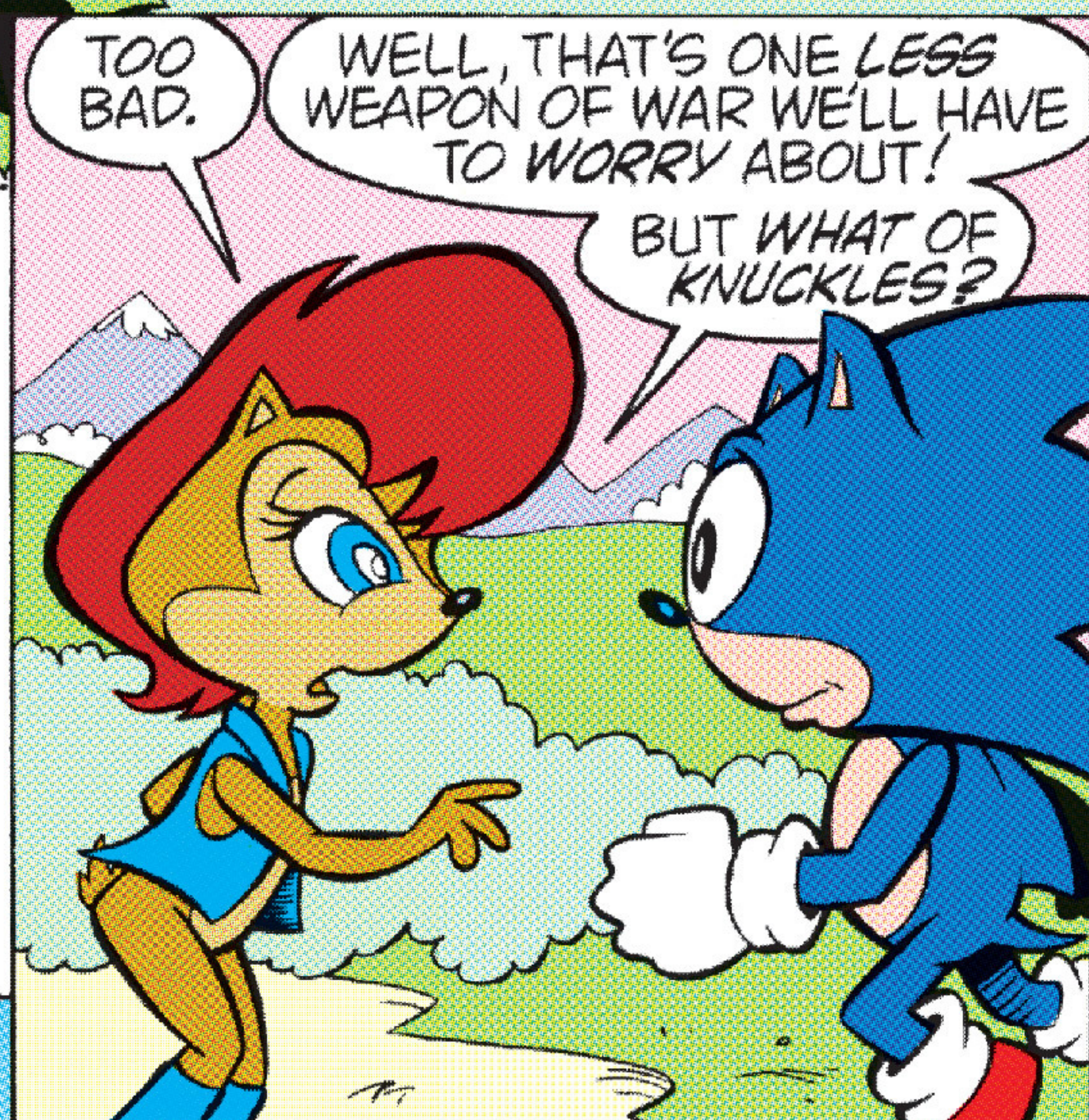
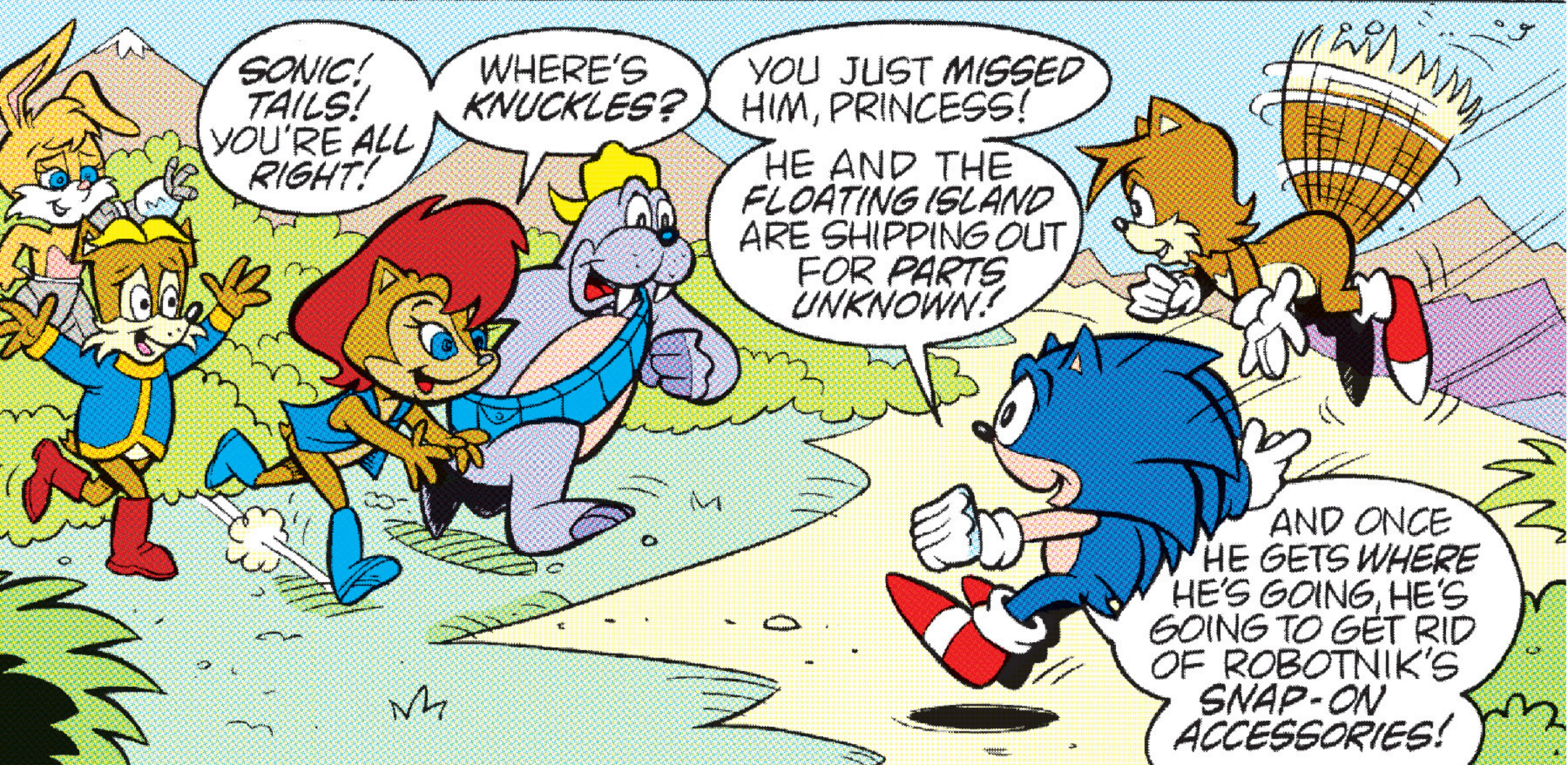
**SKA-REEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE**













SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS  
**KNUCKLES**™

A QUIET DAY ON  
THE *FLOATING ISLAND*...

**KA-THOOOM!**

WHAT WAS *THAT*?!  
SOME *DUDE*  
STARTING TROUBLE  
ON *MY* TURF?

IN  
**FIRE  
DRILL**

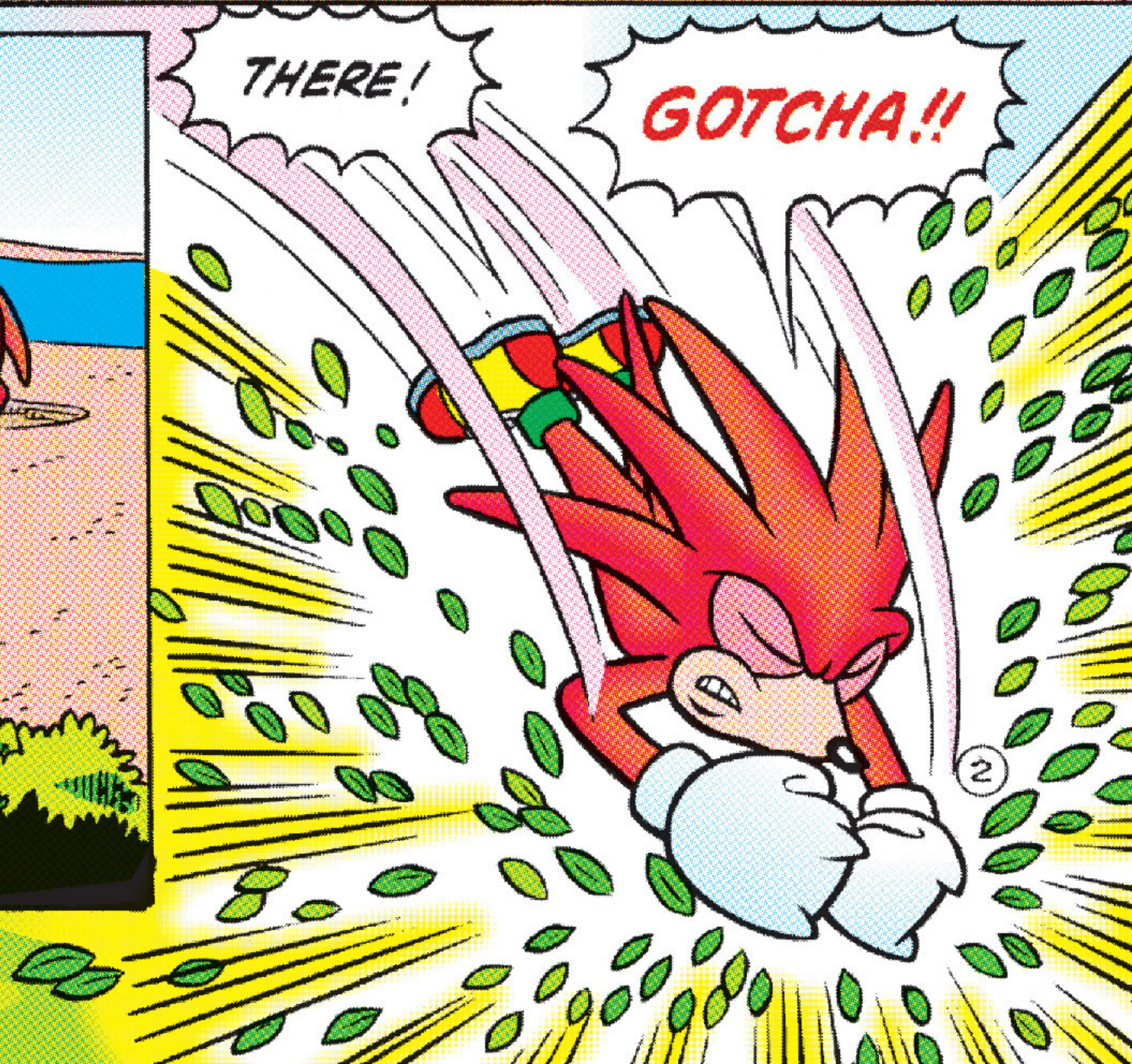
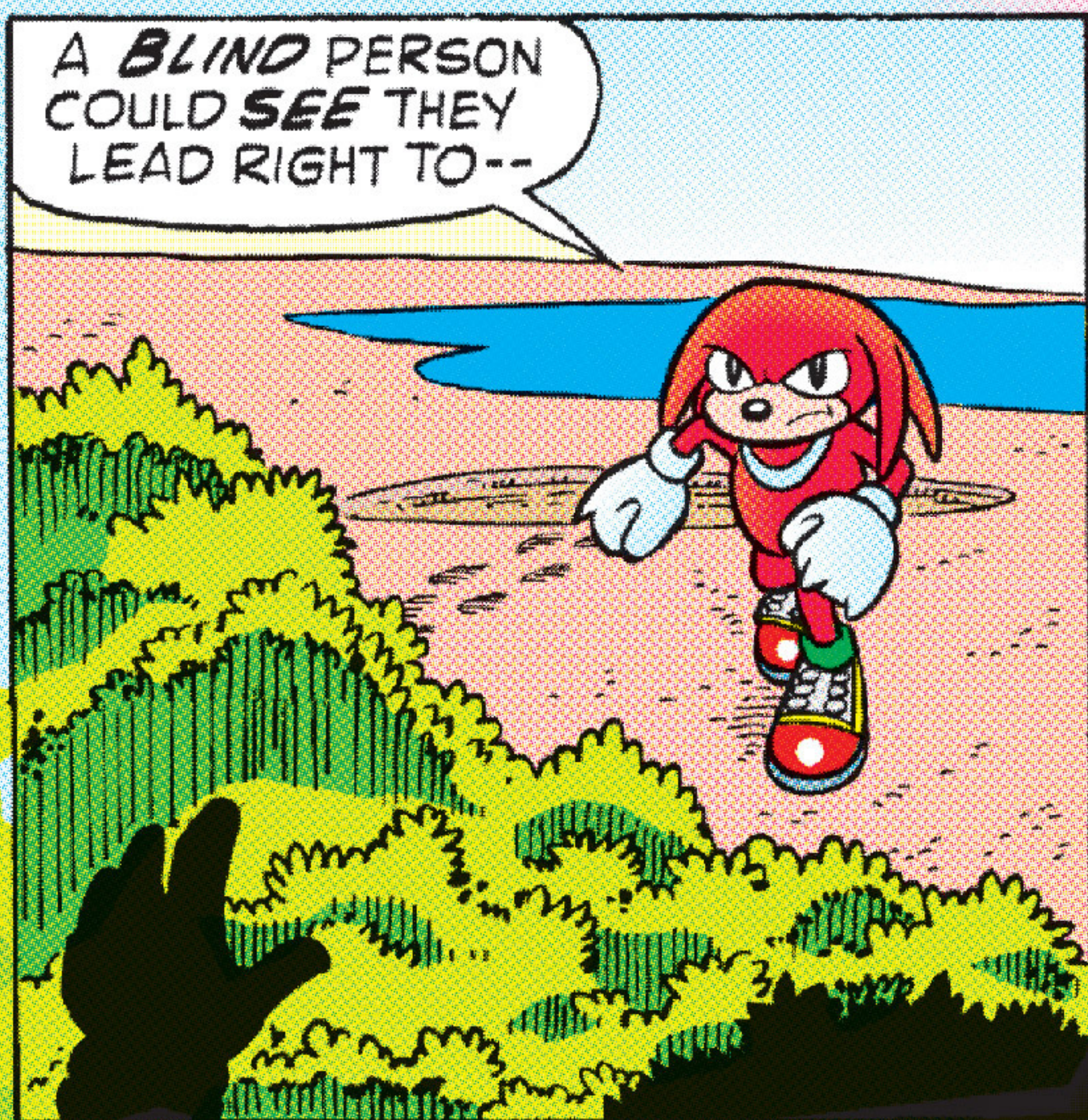
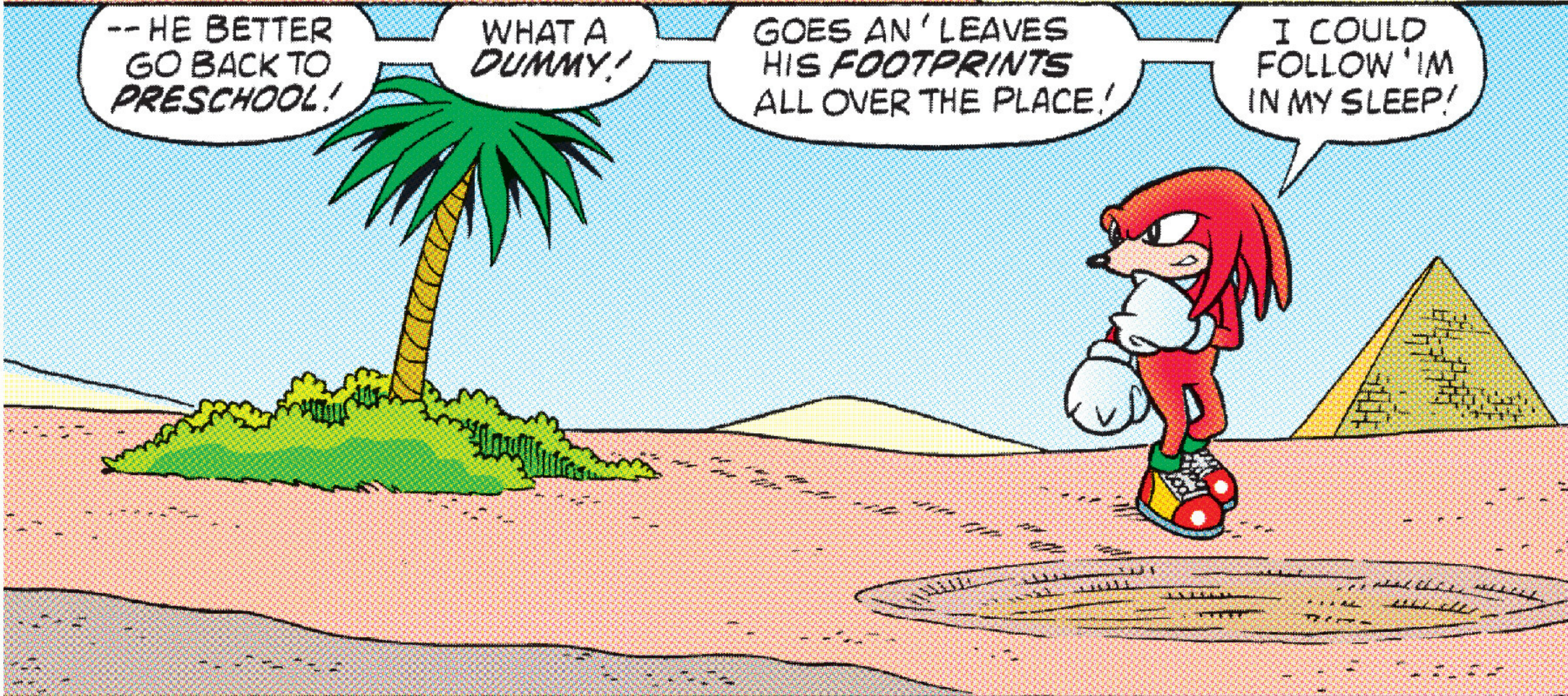
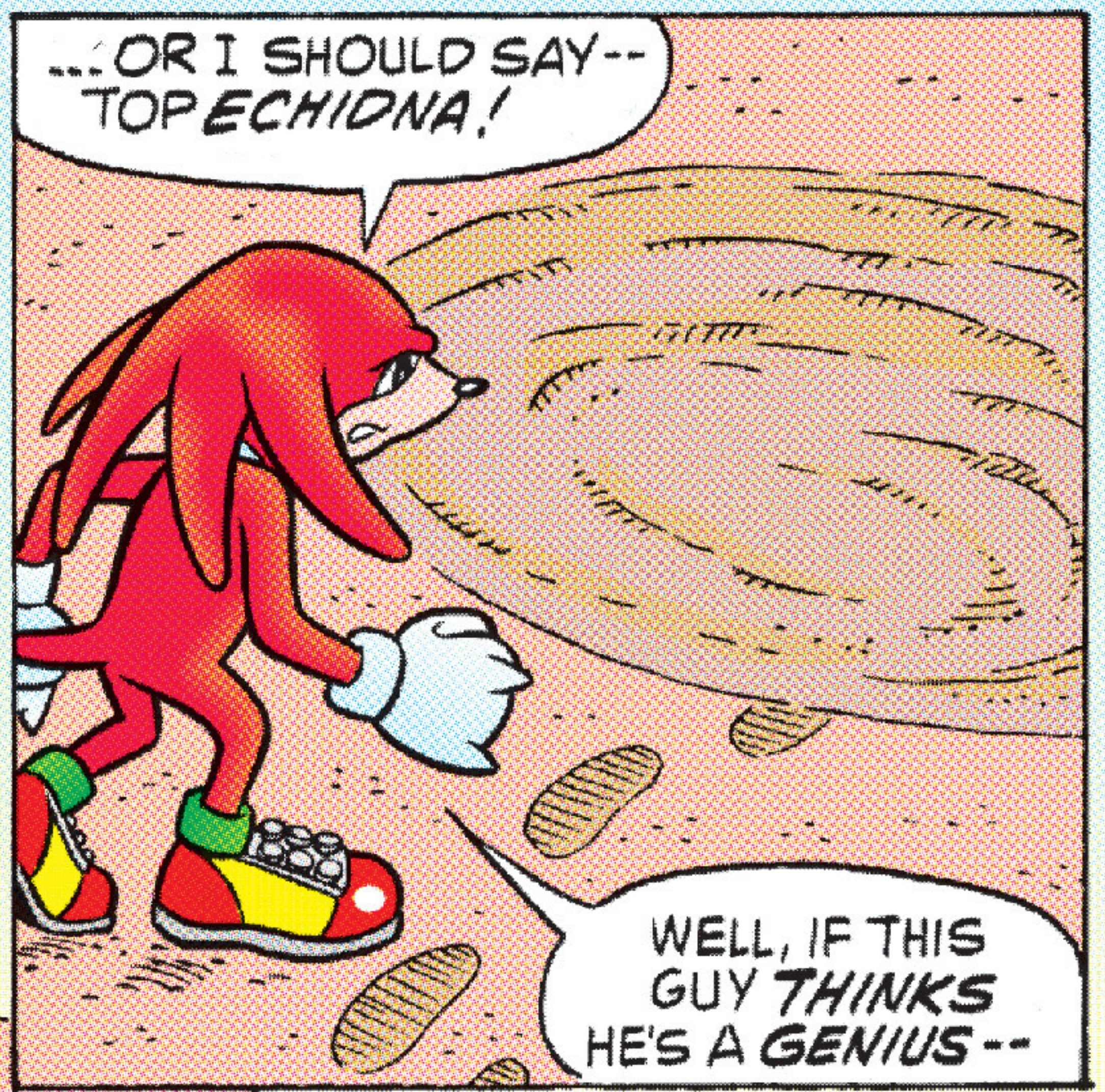
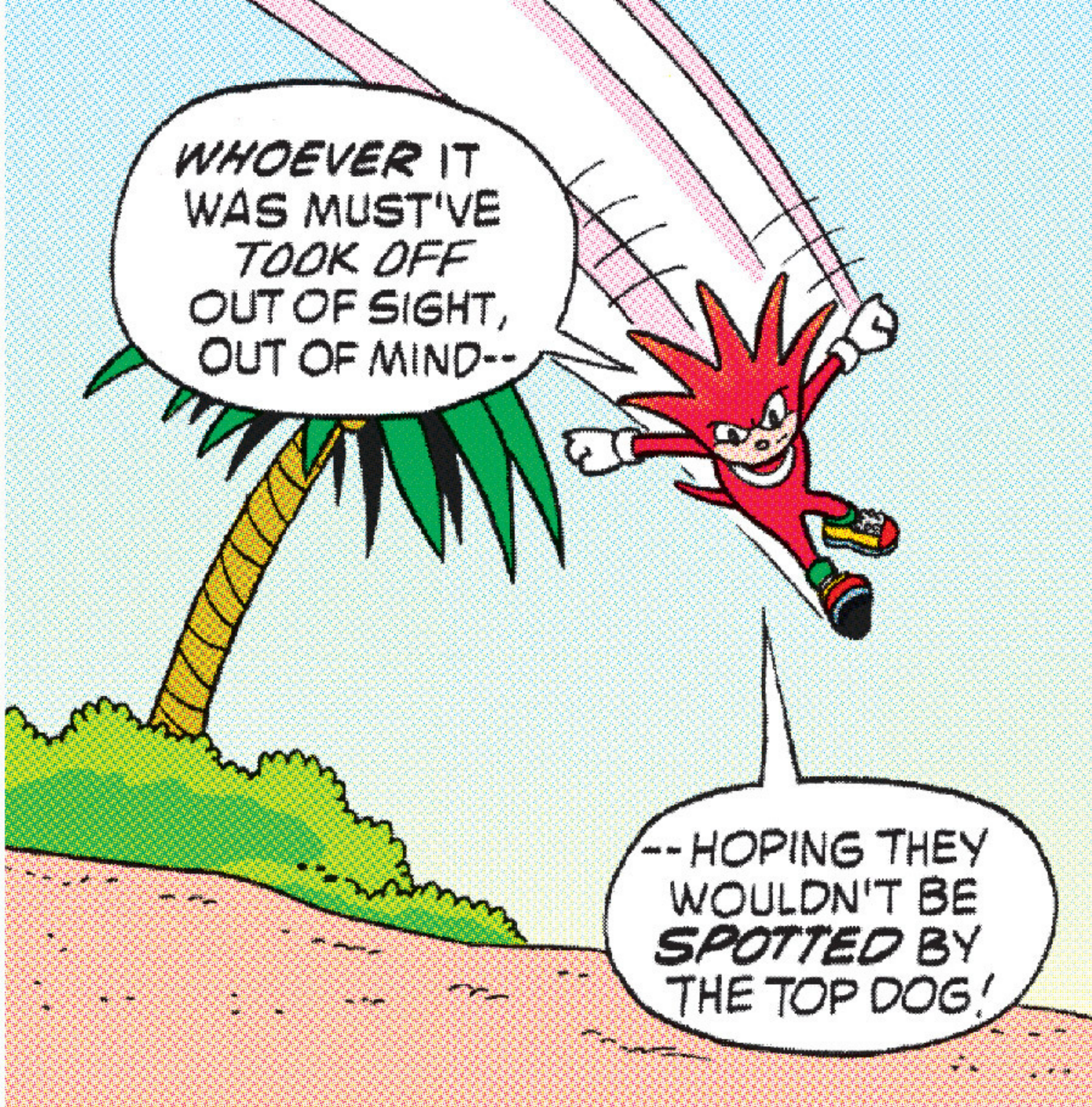
SOUNDS LIKE IT  
CAME FROM  
THE BEACH!

I'D BETTER *WING*  
IT OVER THERE --  
*REAL FAST!*

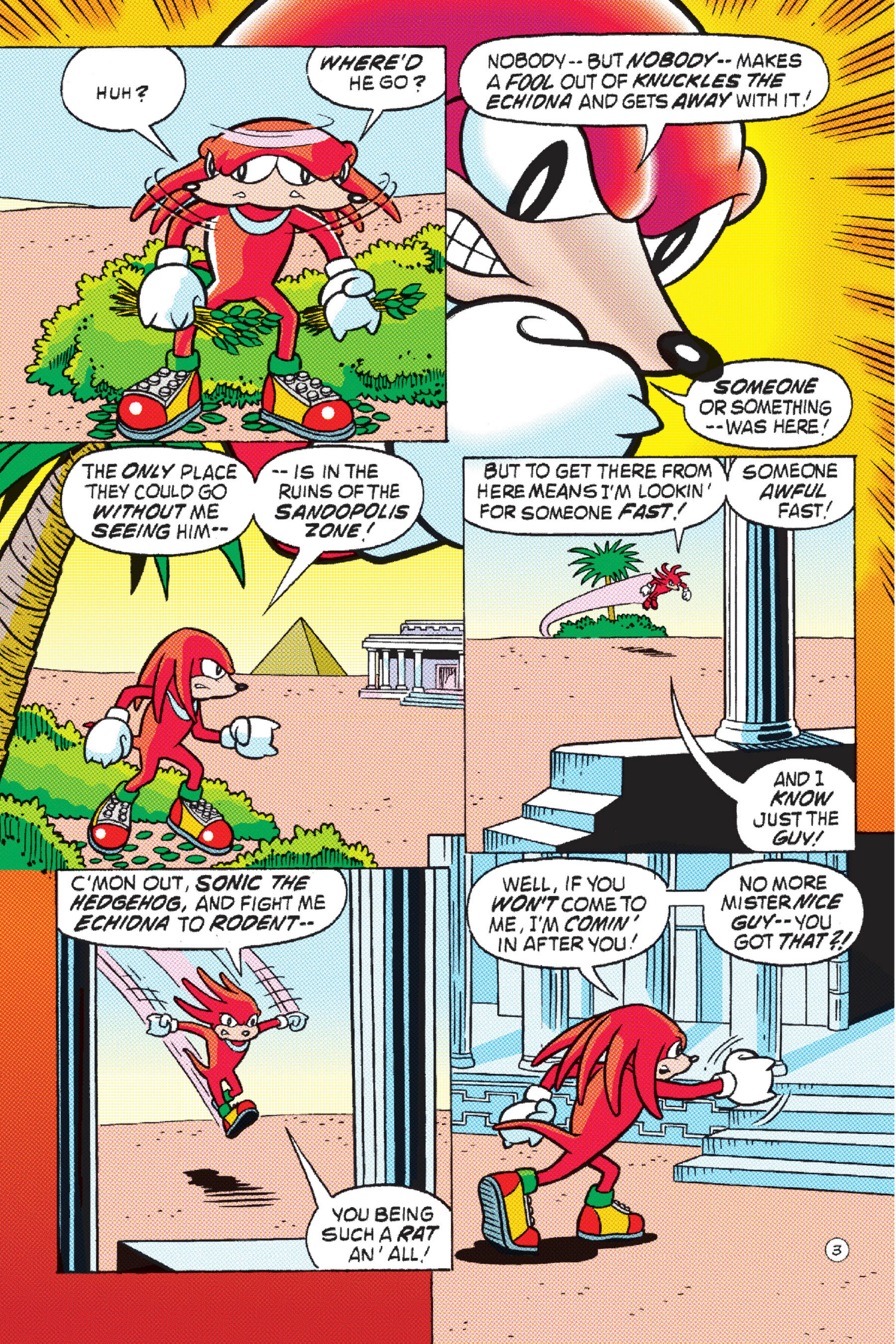
*WHA--?*

*NOBODY'S* HERE!  
JUST A *CRATER!*









HUH?

WHERE'D HE GO?

NOBODY-- BUT *NOBODY*-- MAKES A FOOL OUT OF *KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA* AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

SOMEONE OR SOMETHING --WAS HERE!

THE *ONLY* PLACE THEY COULD GO *WITHOUT ME SEEING HIM*--

-- IS IN THE RUINS OF THE *SANDOPOLIS ZONE*!

BUT TO GET THERE FROM HERE MEANS I'M LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE *FAST*!

SOMEONE *AWFUL FAST*!

AND I *KNOW* JUST THE GUY!

C'MON OUT, *SONIC THE HEDGEHOG*, AND FIGHT ME *ECHIDNA TO RODENT*--

WELL, IF YOU *WON'T* COME TO ME, I'M *COMIN'* IN AFTER YOU!

NO MORE *MISTER NICE GUY*-- YOU GOT THAT?!

YOU BEING SUCH A *RAT* AN' ALL!



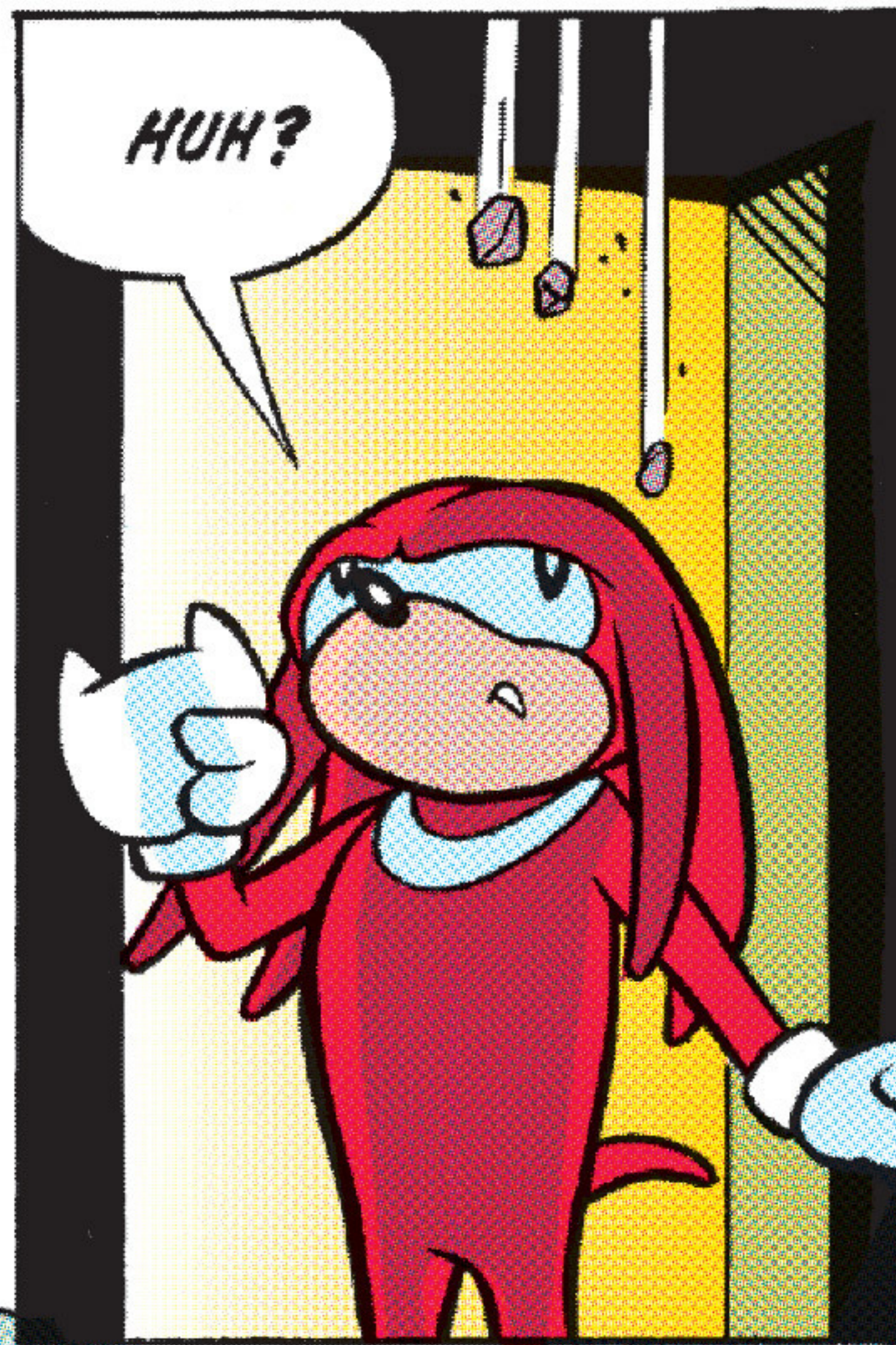


AND I'M GOING  
TO MAKE YOU  
PAY FOR  
DRAGGIN' ME  
INTO THE  
**DARK!**

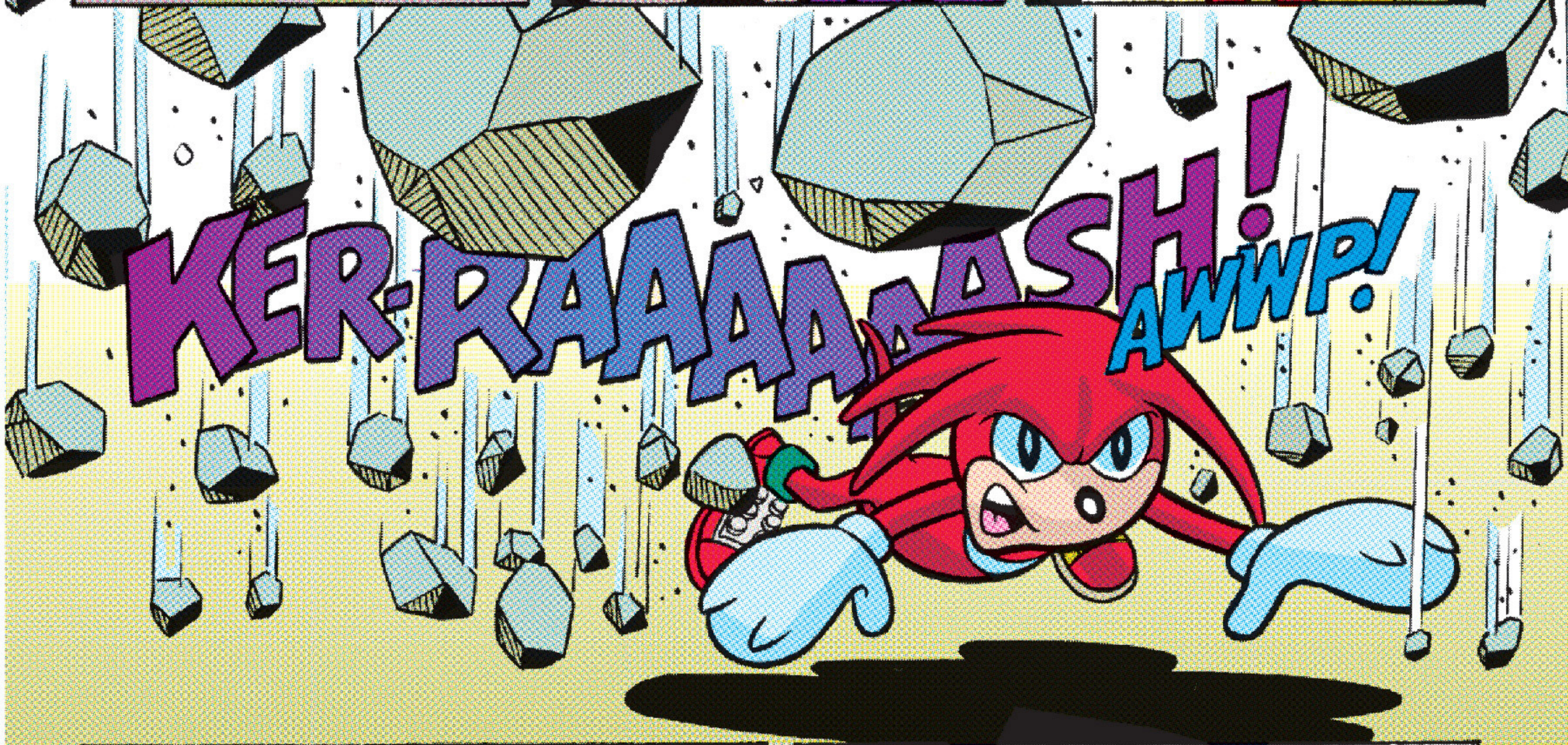
OOOO,  
HOW I  
**HATE**  
THE DARK!



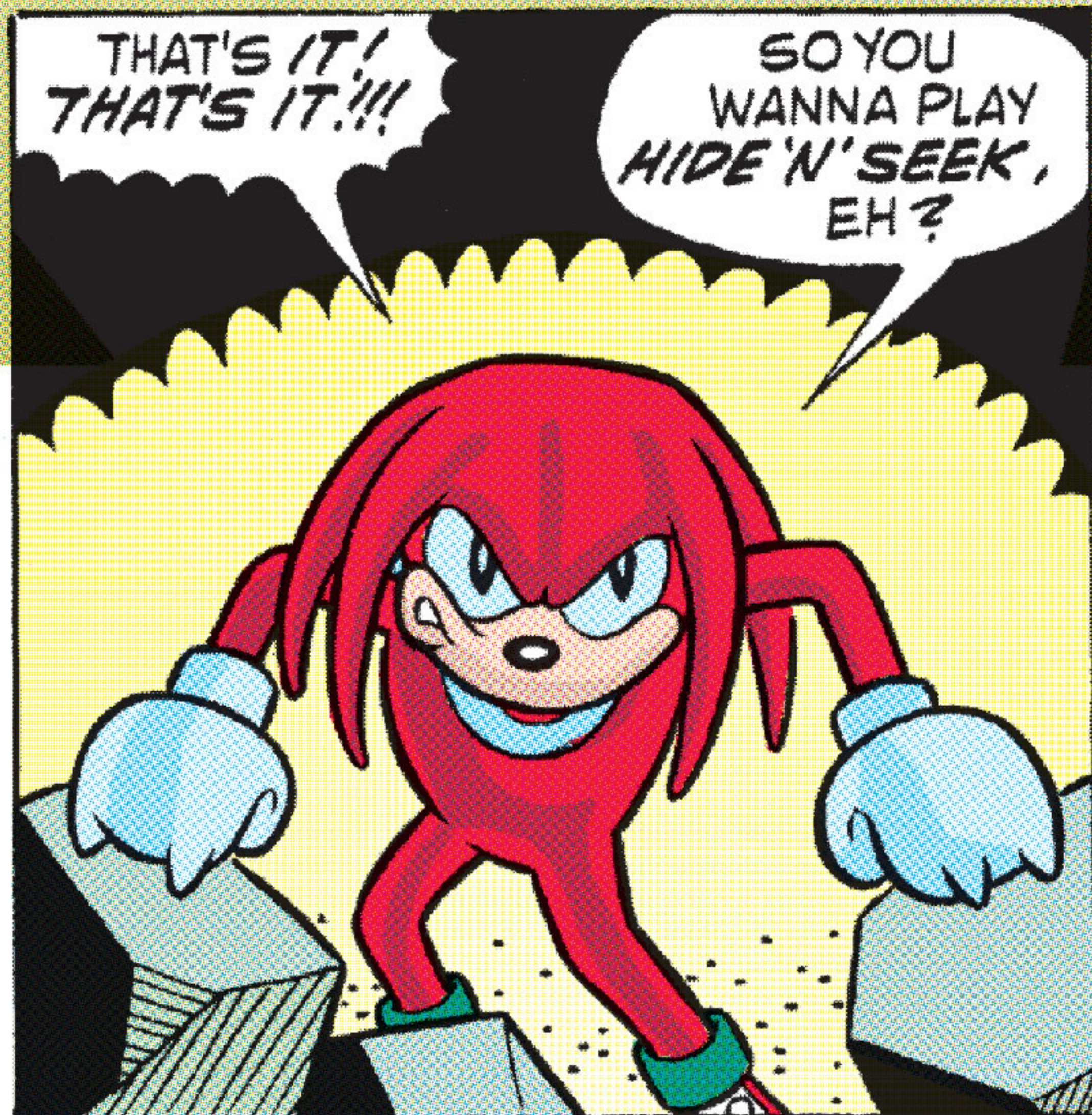
**SNAKT!**



HUH?



**KER-RAAAAAASH!**  
**AWWP!**



THAT'S IT!  
**THAT'S IT!!!**

SO YOU  
WANNA PLAY  
**HIDE 'N' SEEK,**  
EH?



I GOT A  
BETTER  
GAME--

I CALL IT "A  
**FISTFUL OF**  
**KNUCKLES!**

SO IF YOU  
**KNOW**  
WHAT'S  
**GOOD** FOR  
YOU--



--YOU'LL DO THIS EASY OR  
I'LL **REALLY** BRING THE  
HOUSE **DOWN** ON YOU!

YOU CAN'T  
**HIDE** FROM ME  
FOR LONG!

DON'T YOU  
KNOW--

--I'M THE **GUARDIAN**  
OF THIS ISLAND?!  
YOU **CAN'T** MESS  
AROUND WHILE I'M  
ON WATCH!

**YE-OW!**

WHERE'D THAT  
COME FROM?!

SOMETHIN'  
FUNNY'S **GOIN'**  
ON HERE!!

THE  
PROBLEM  
**IS--**  
HOW COME  
I'M **NOT**  
LAUGHIN'?

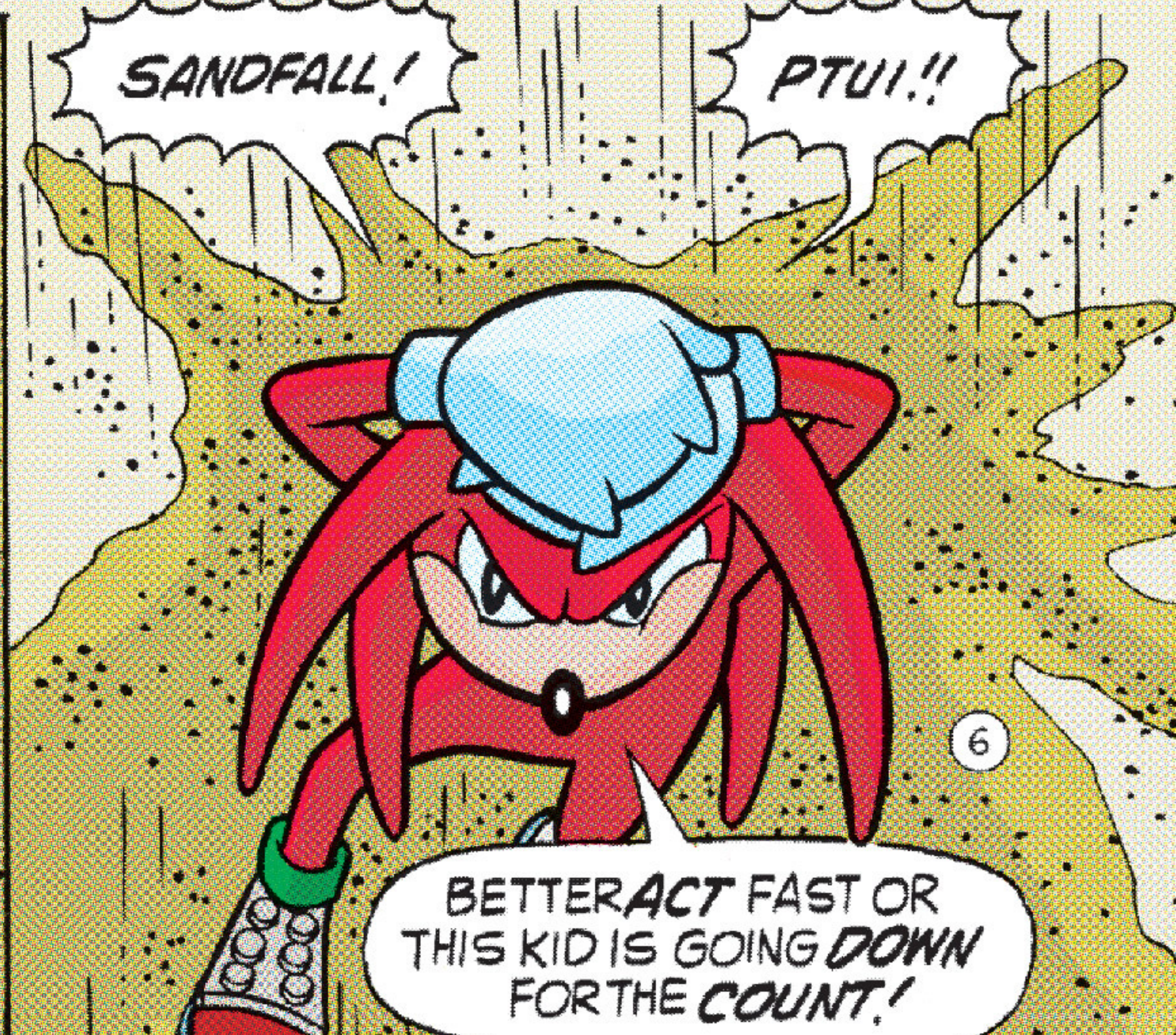
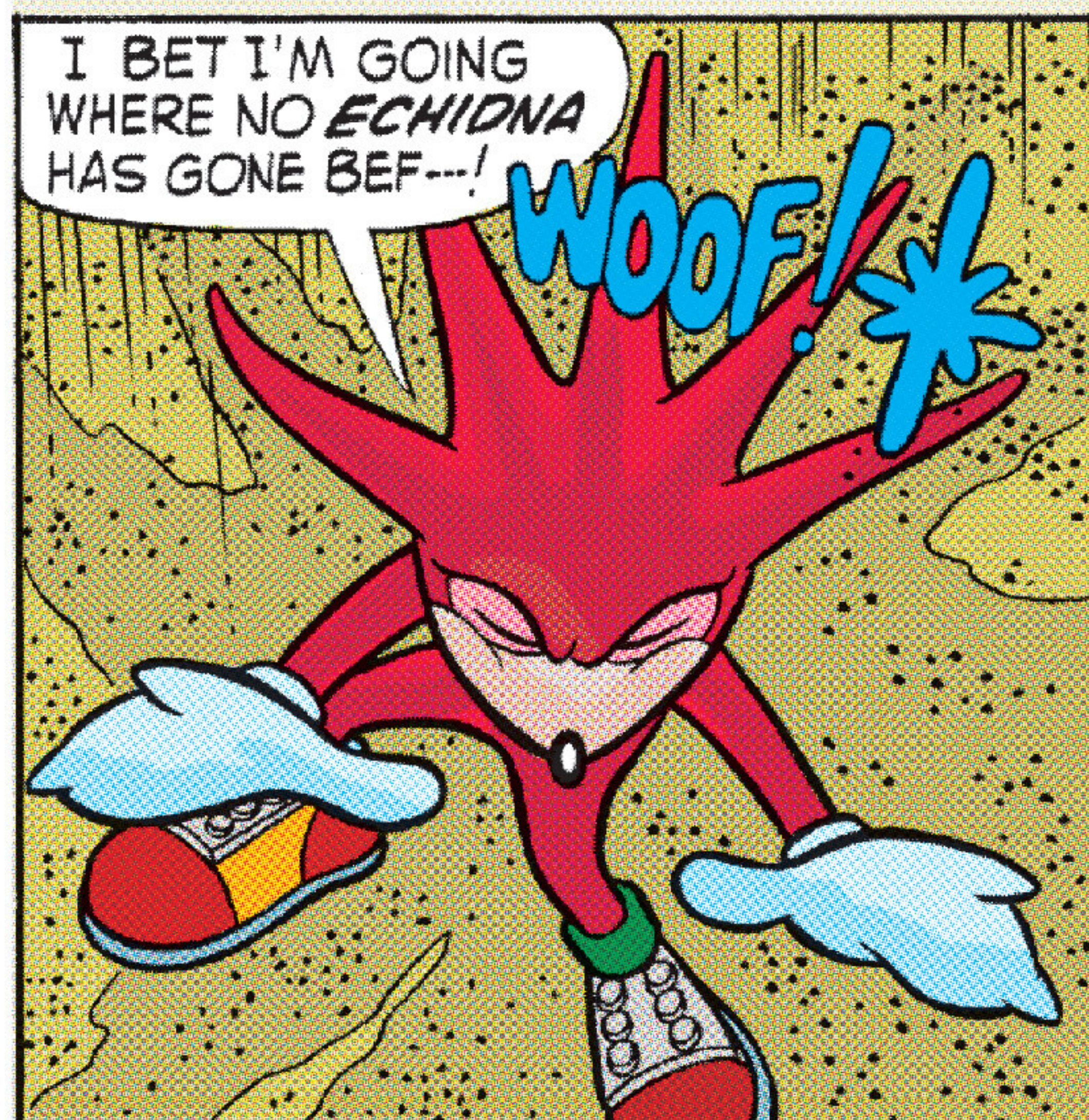
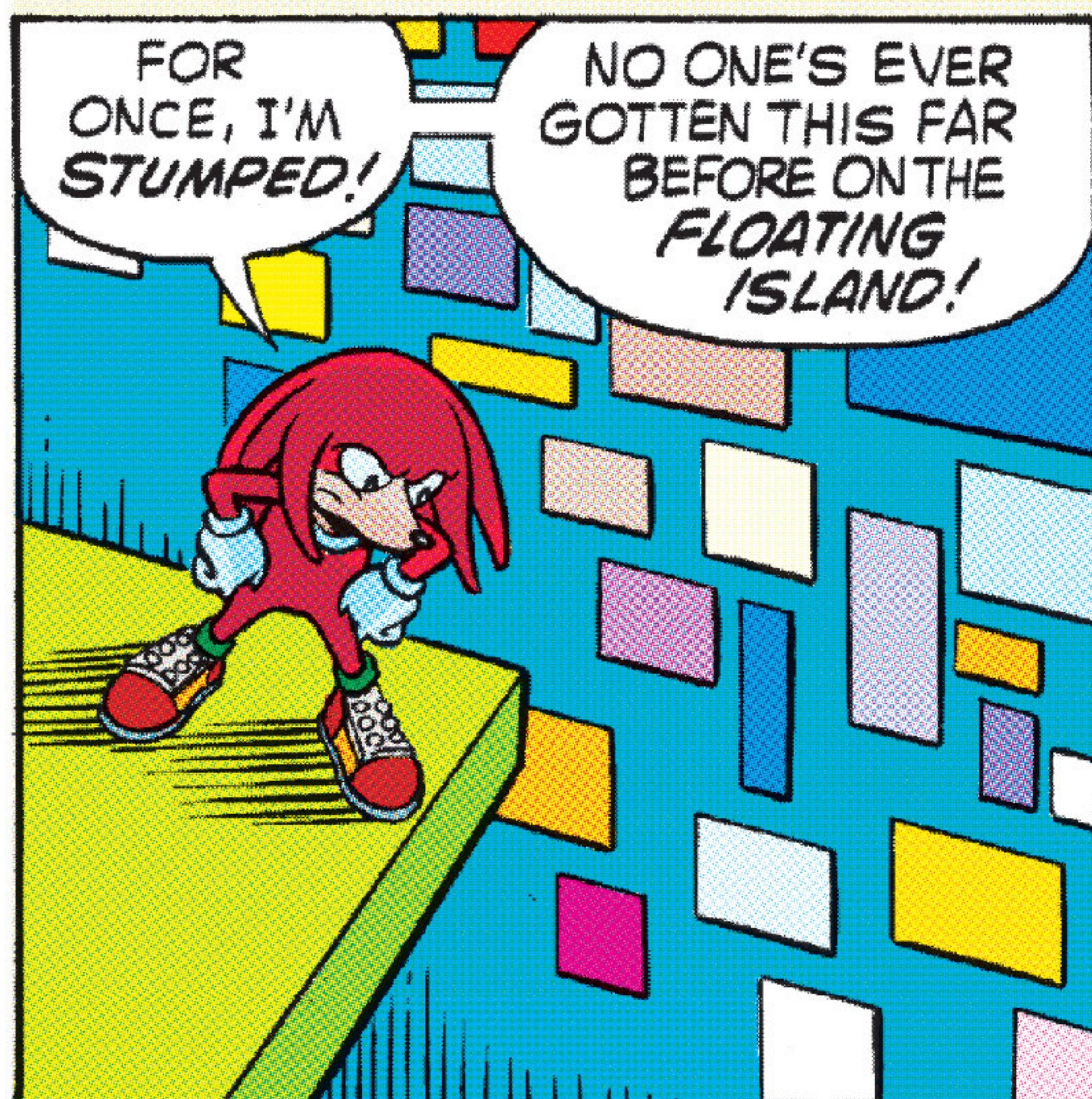
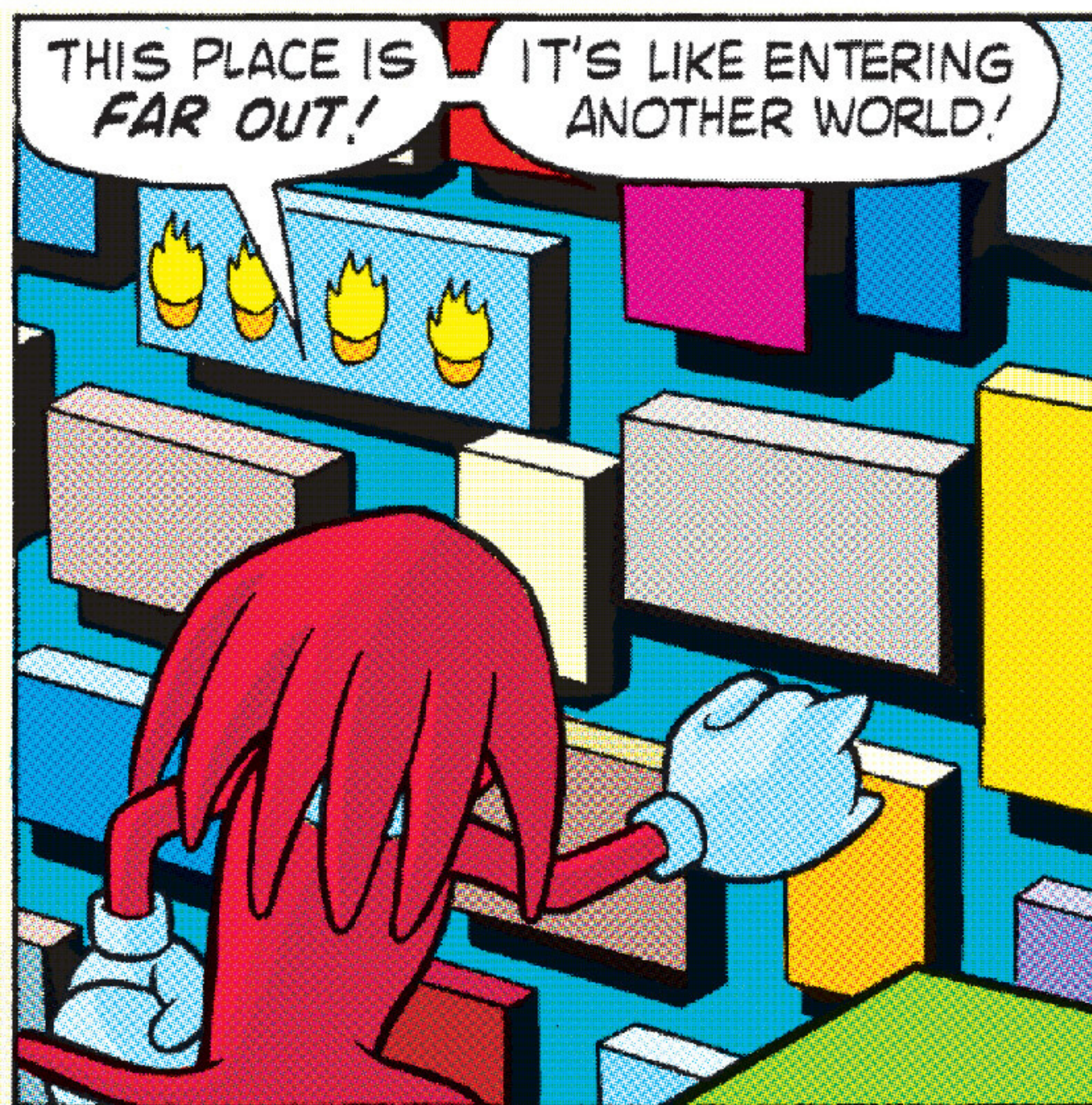
**THUD!**

WELL,  
ISN'T **THIS**  
SPECIAL!

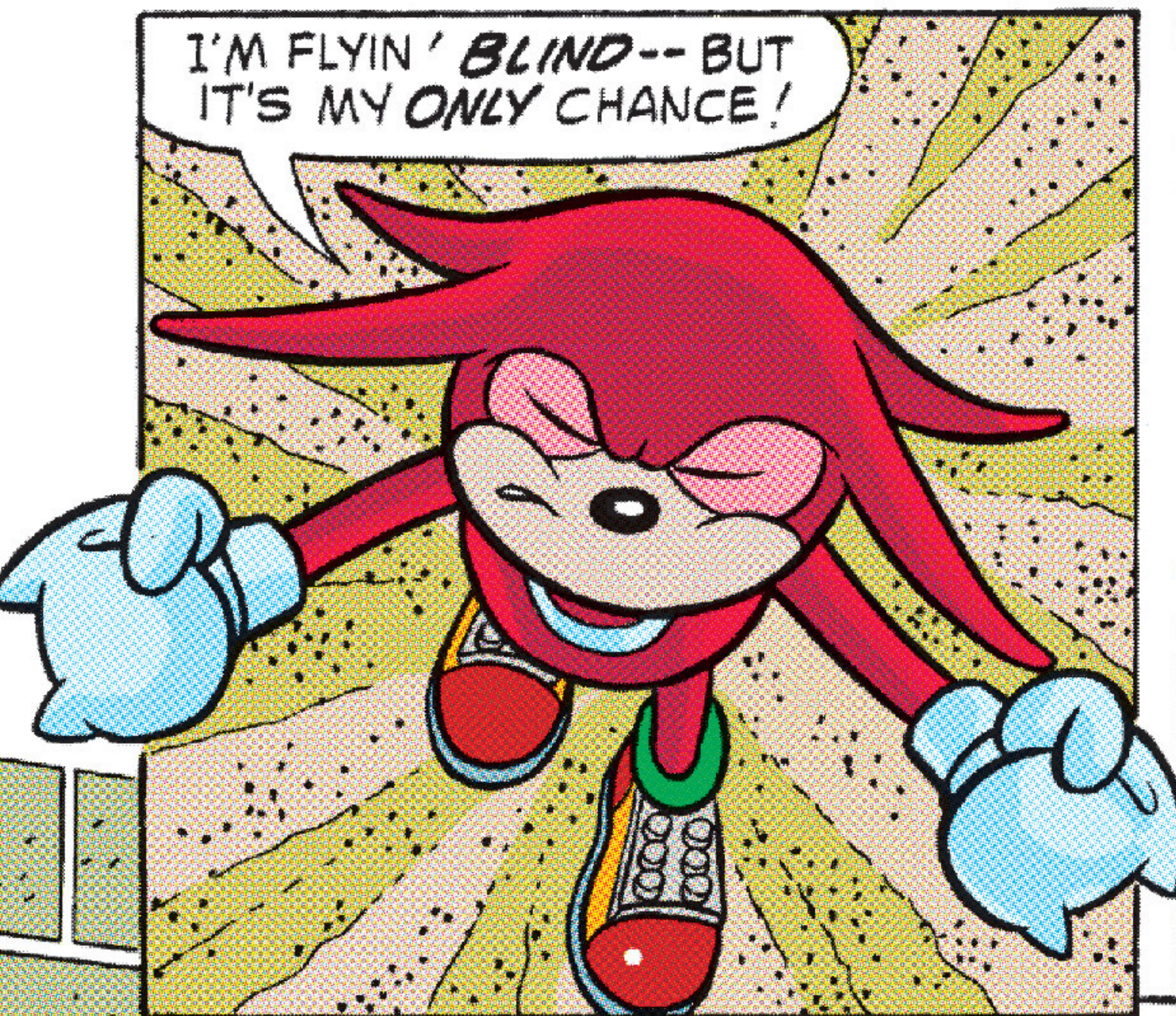
THE **WALL**  
REVEALS IT'S  
A **DOOR!**

SINCE THERE'S  
**NO WAY ANYONE**  
COULD'VE GOTTEN  
**PAST** ME--

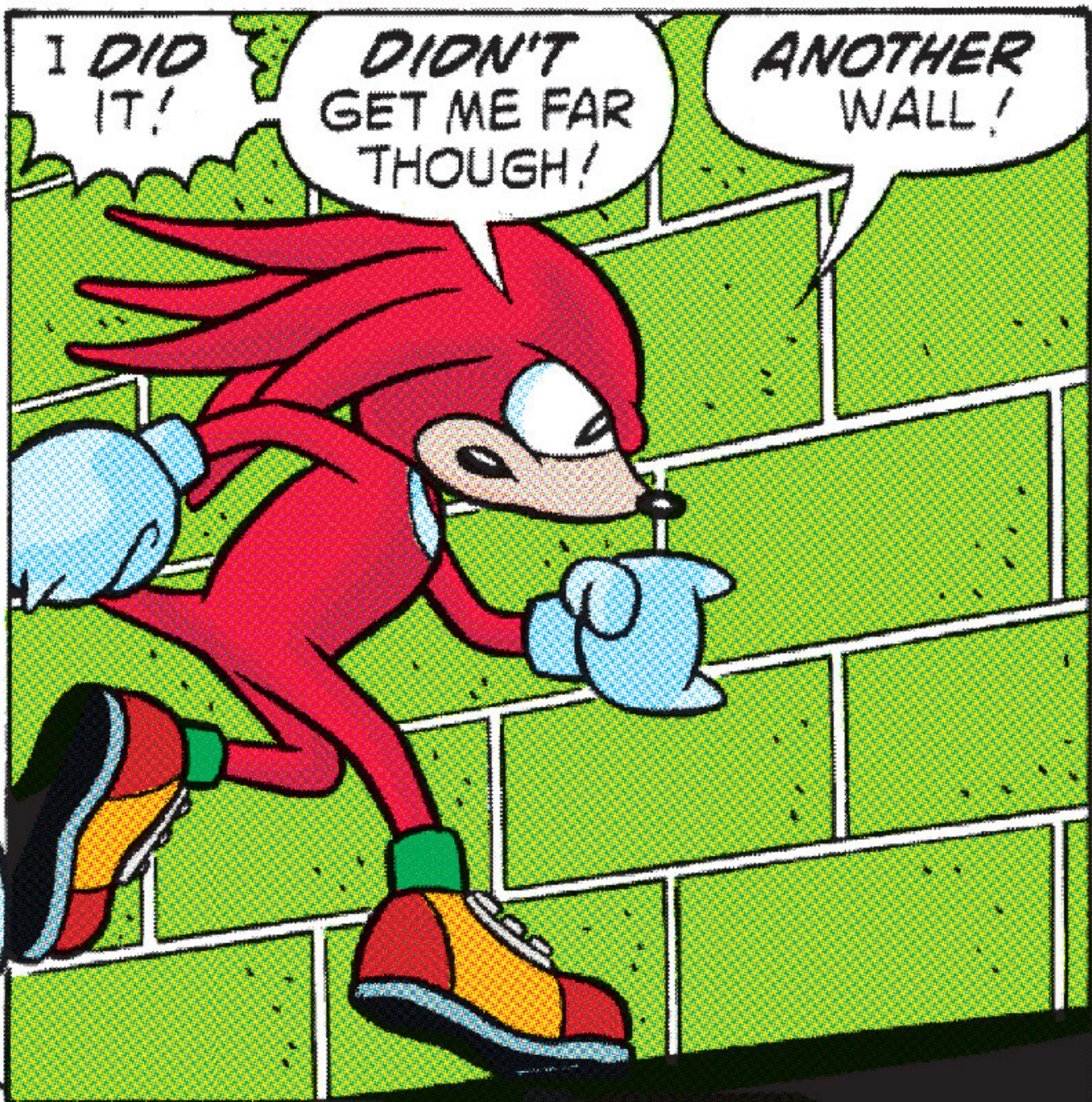








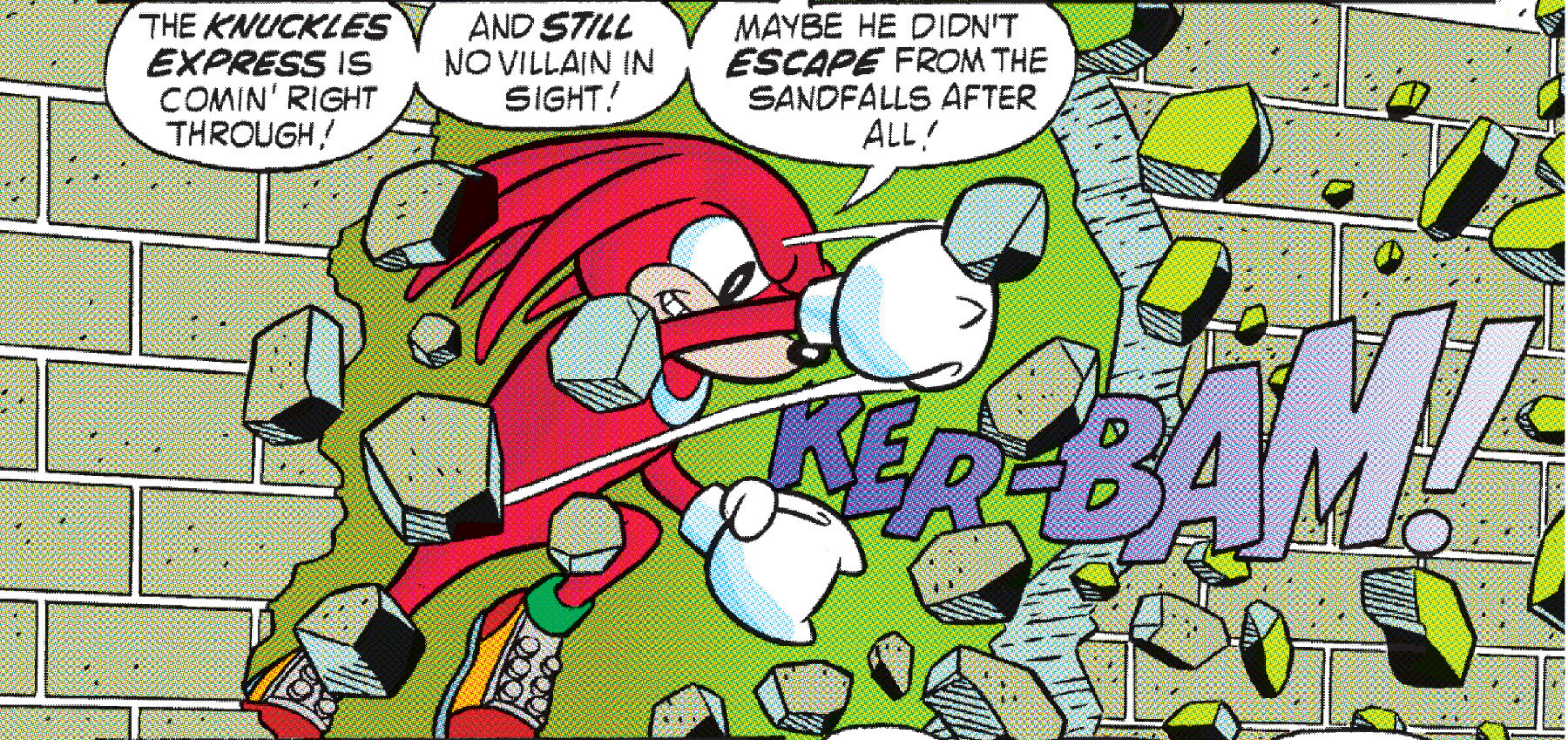
I'M FLYIN' *BLIND*-- BUT IT'S MY *ONLY* CHANCE!



I *DID* IT!

*DIDN'T* GET ME FAR THOUGH!

*ANOTHER* WALL!

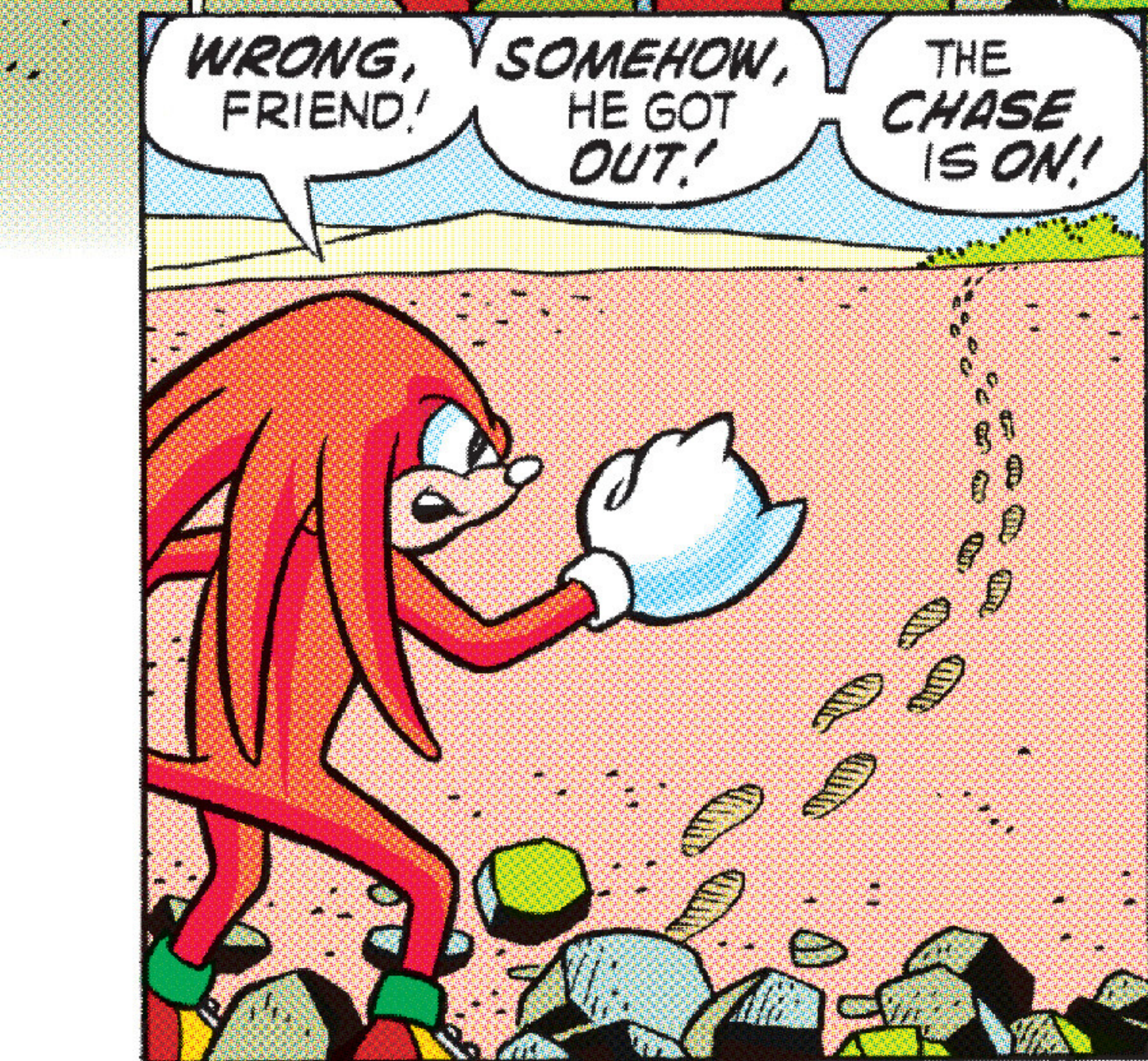


THE *KNUCKLES EXPRESS* IS COMIN' RIGHT THROUGH!

AND *STILL* NO VILLAIN IN SIGHT!

MAYBE HE *DIDN'T* *ESCAPE* FROM THE SANDFALLS AFTER ALL!

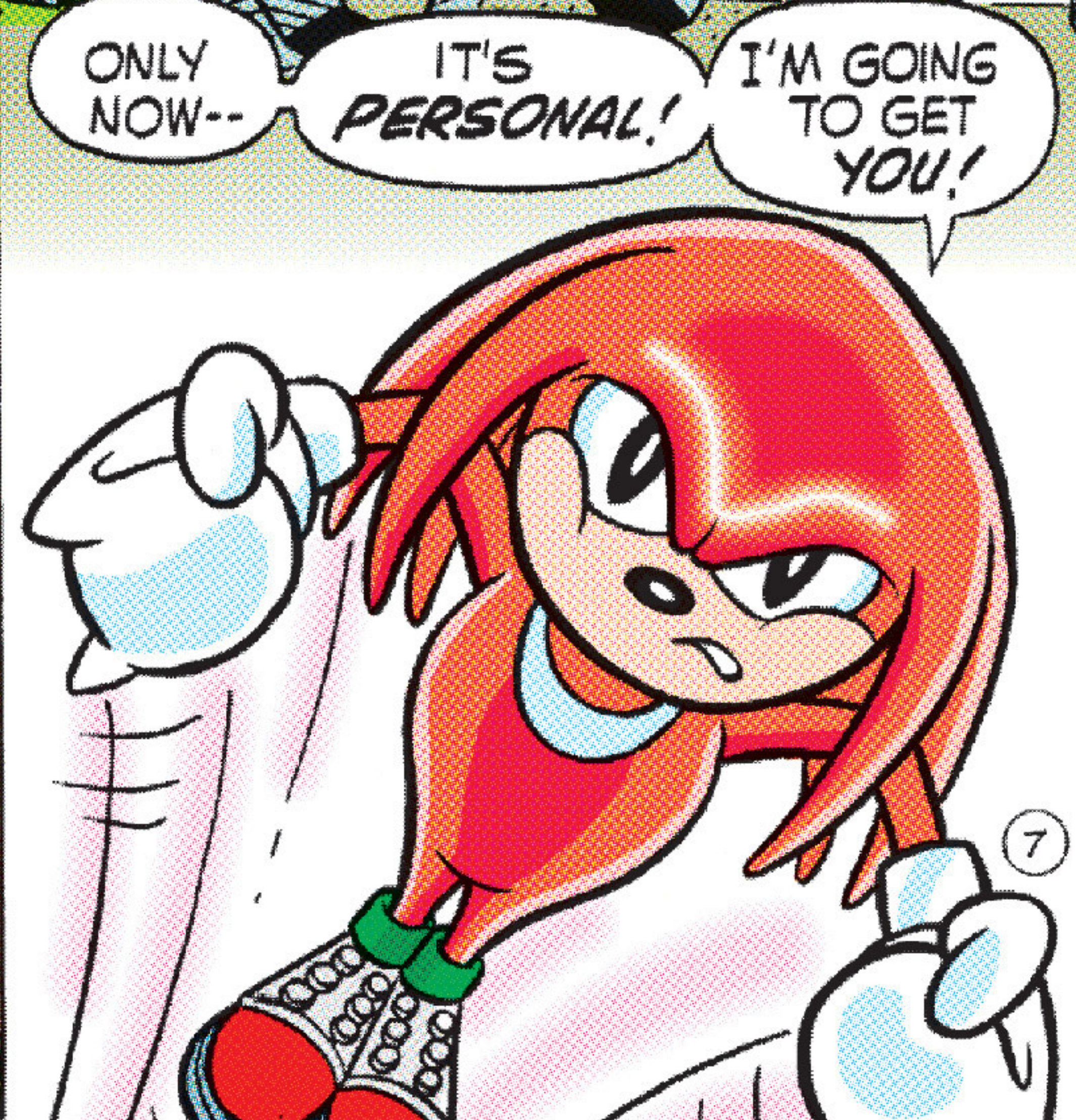
**KER-BAM!**



*WRONG*, FRIEND!

*SOMEHOW*, HE GOT OUT!

THE *CHASE* IS ON!

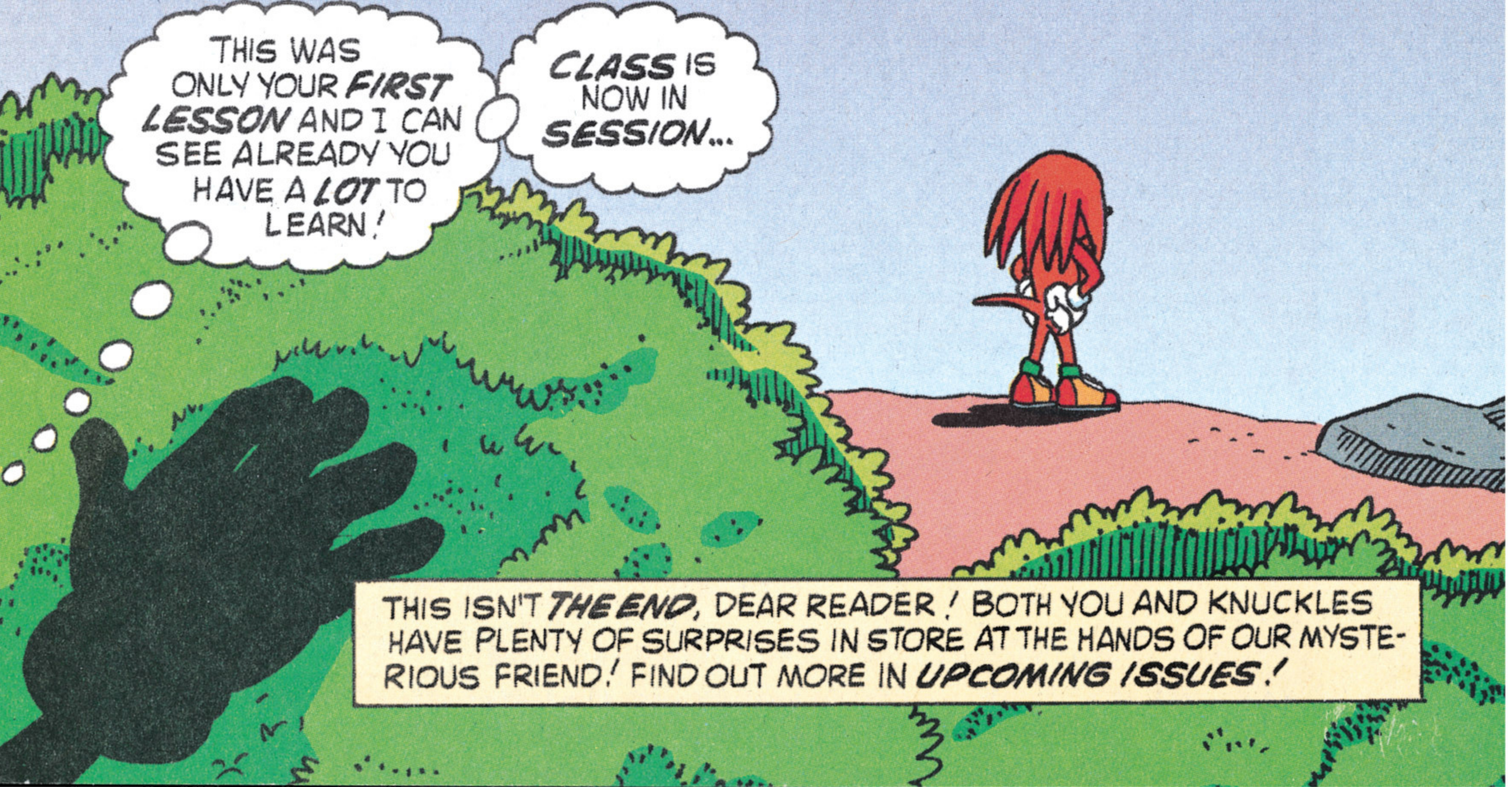
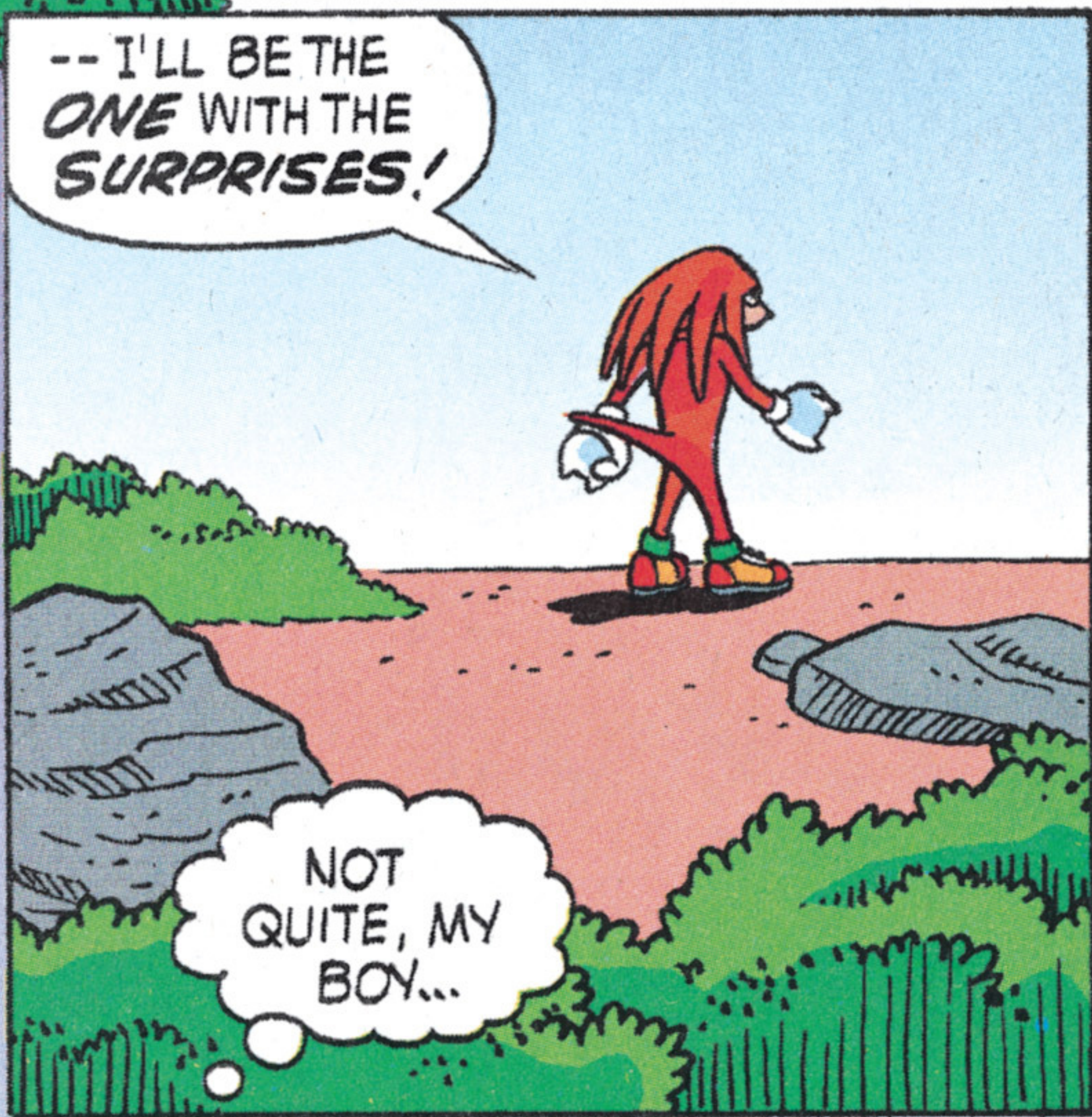
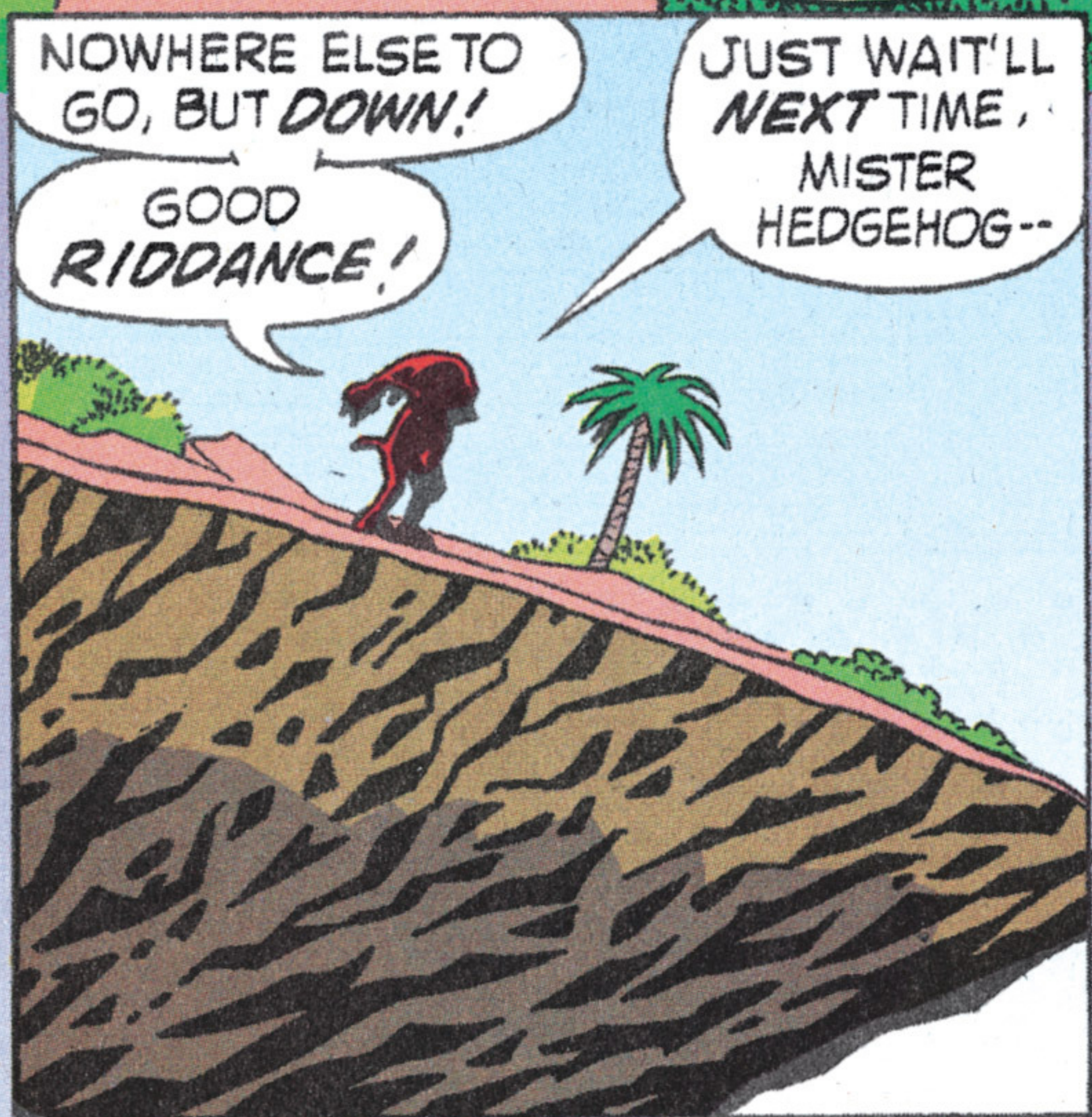
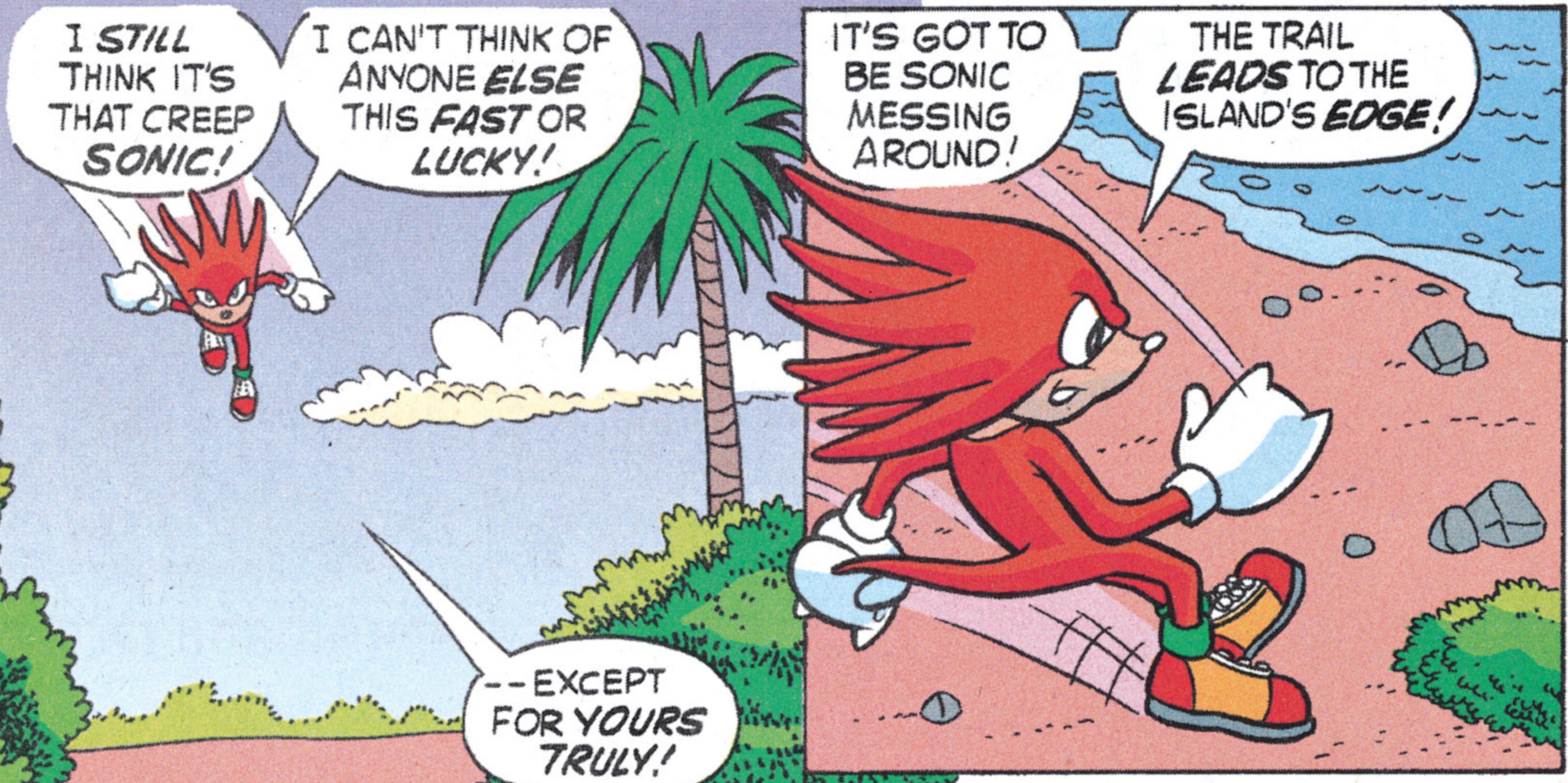


ONLY NOW--

IT'S *PERSONAL*!

I'M GOING TO GET YOU!

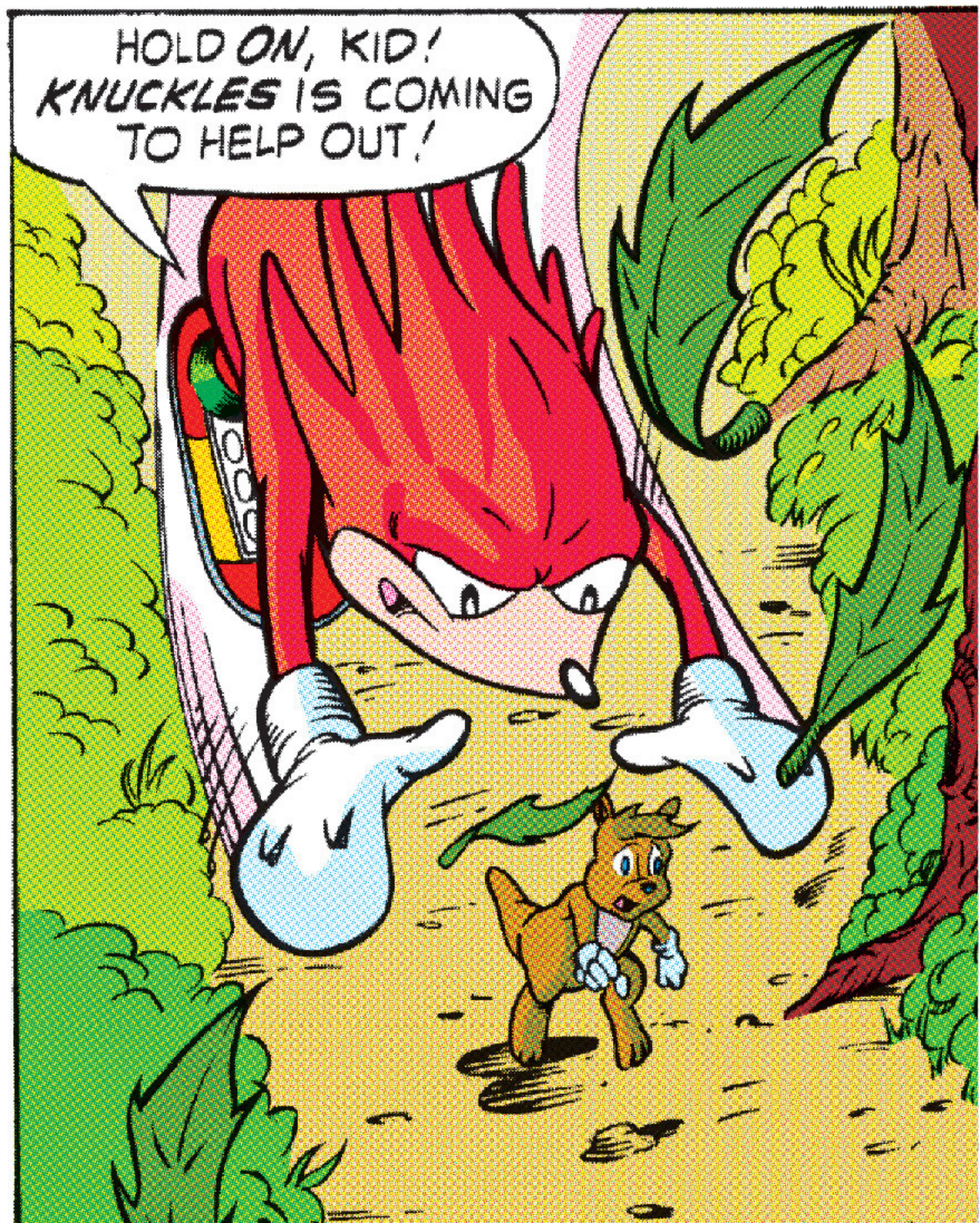
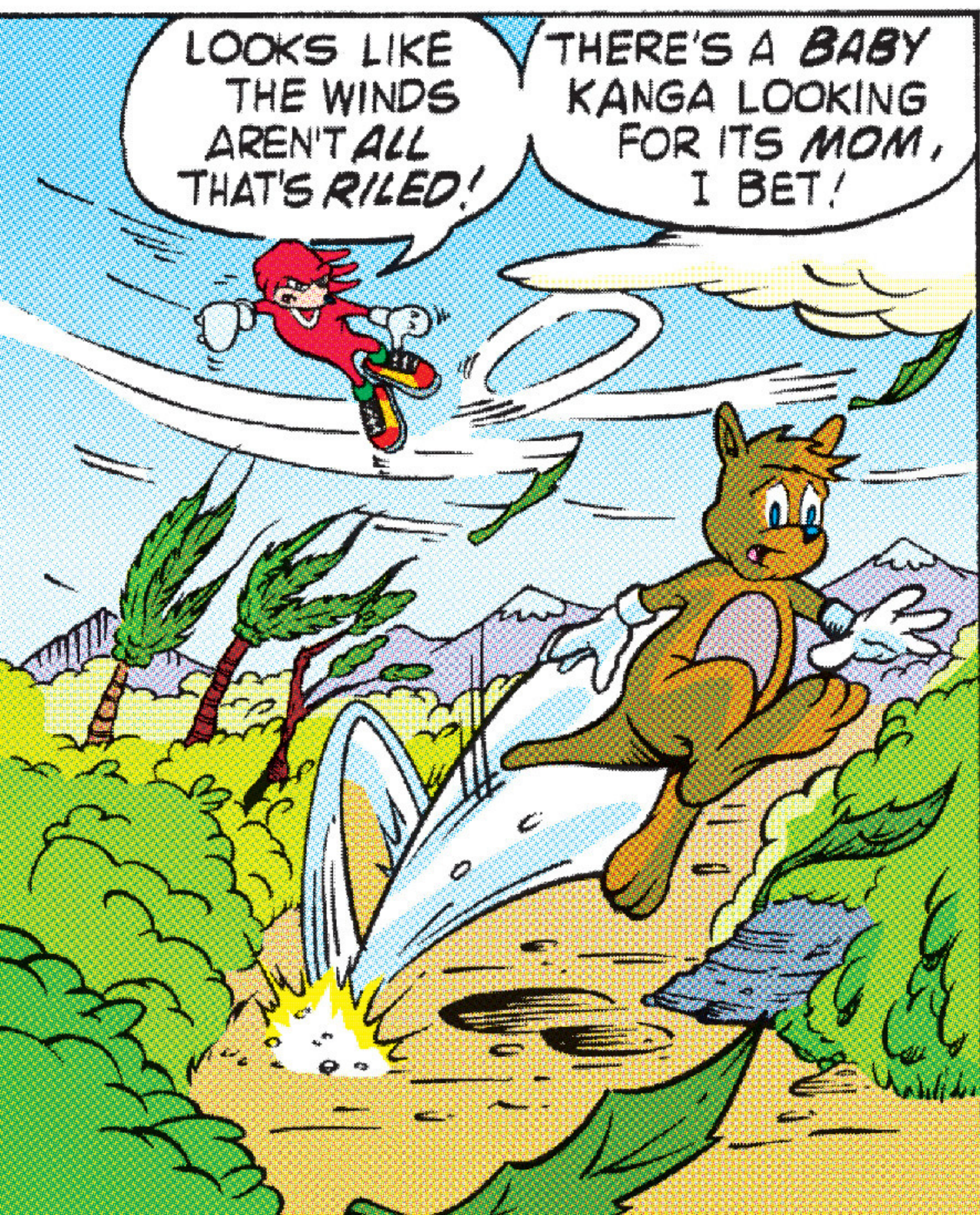




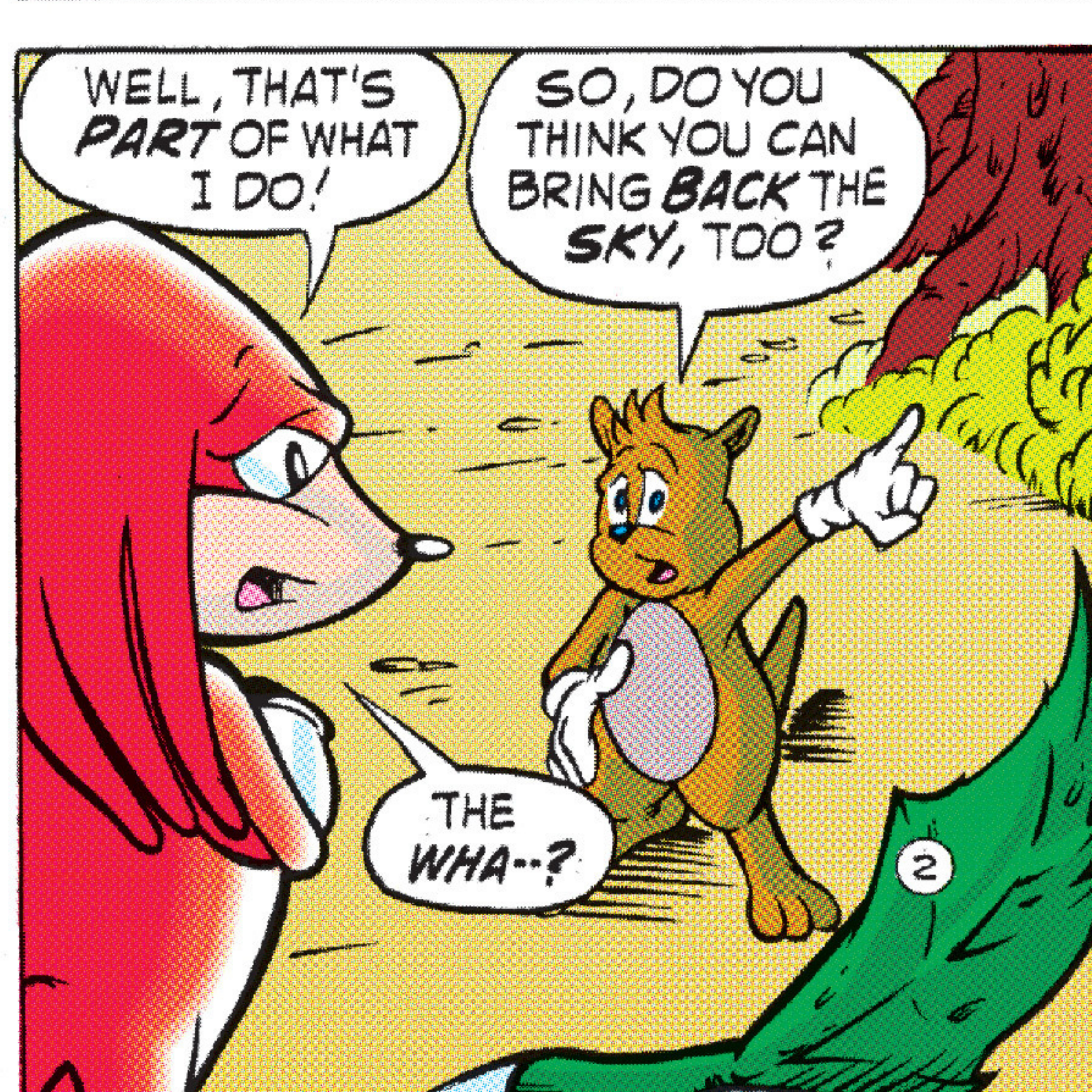
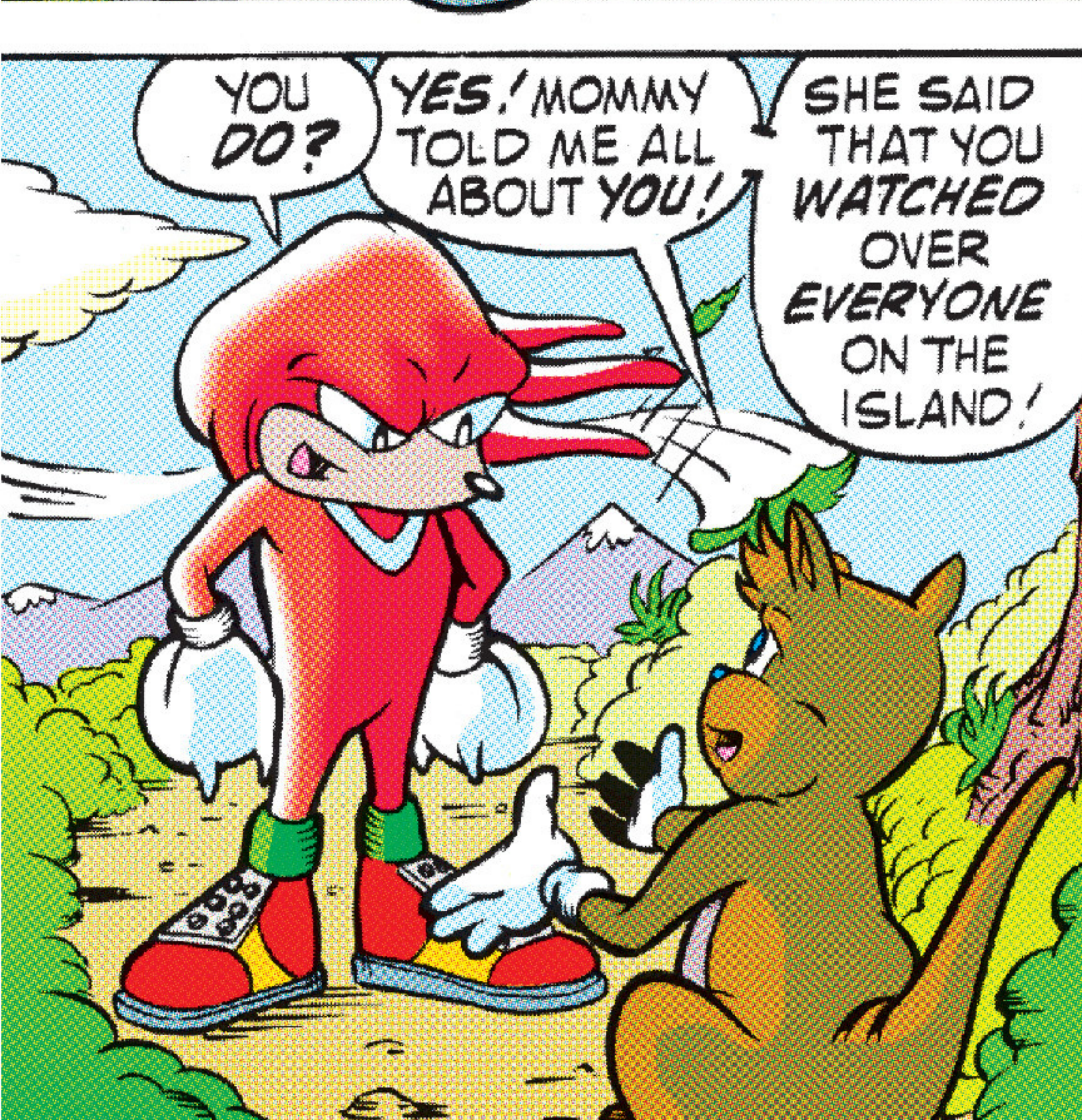
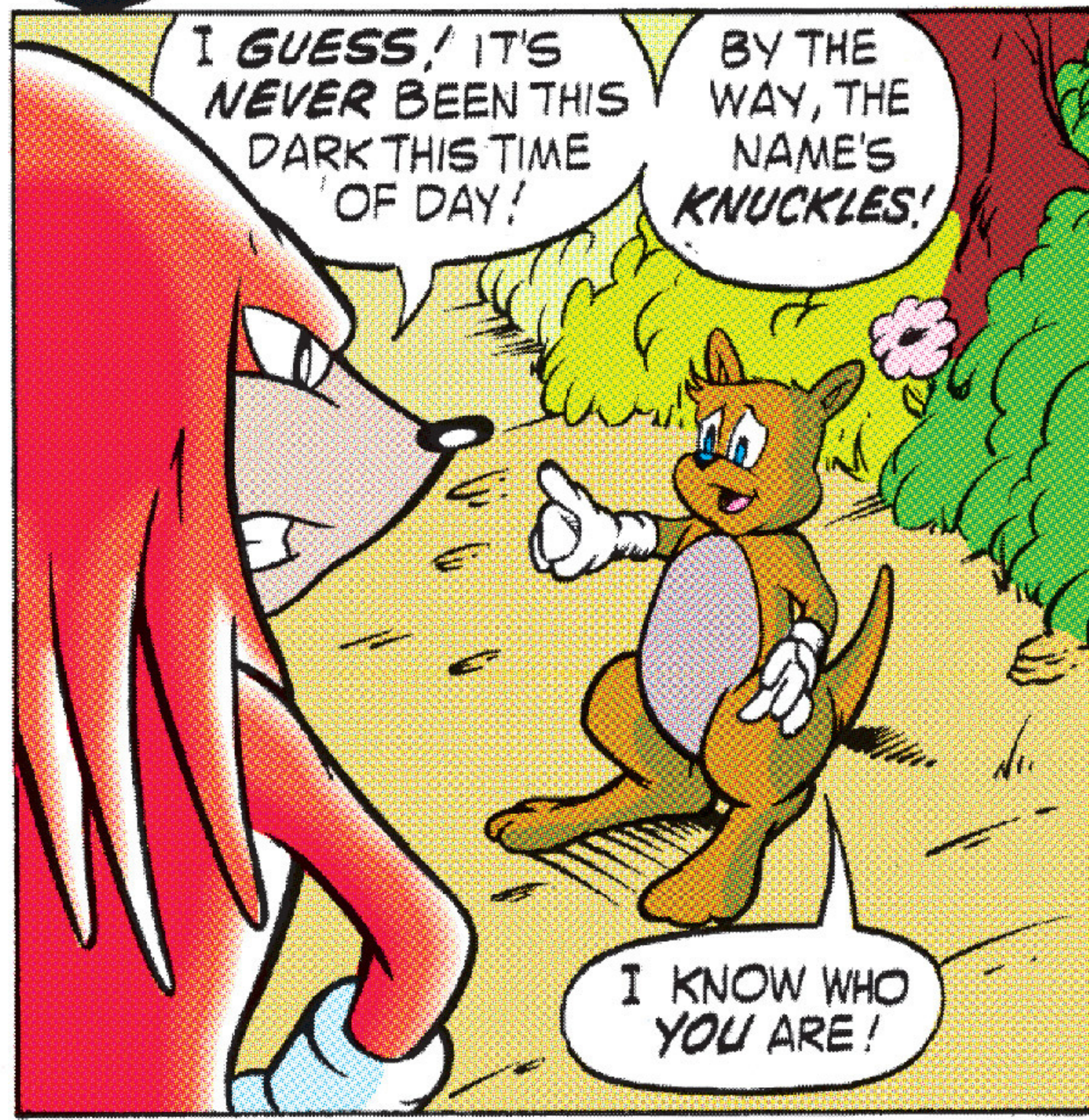
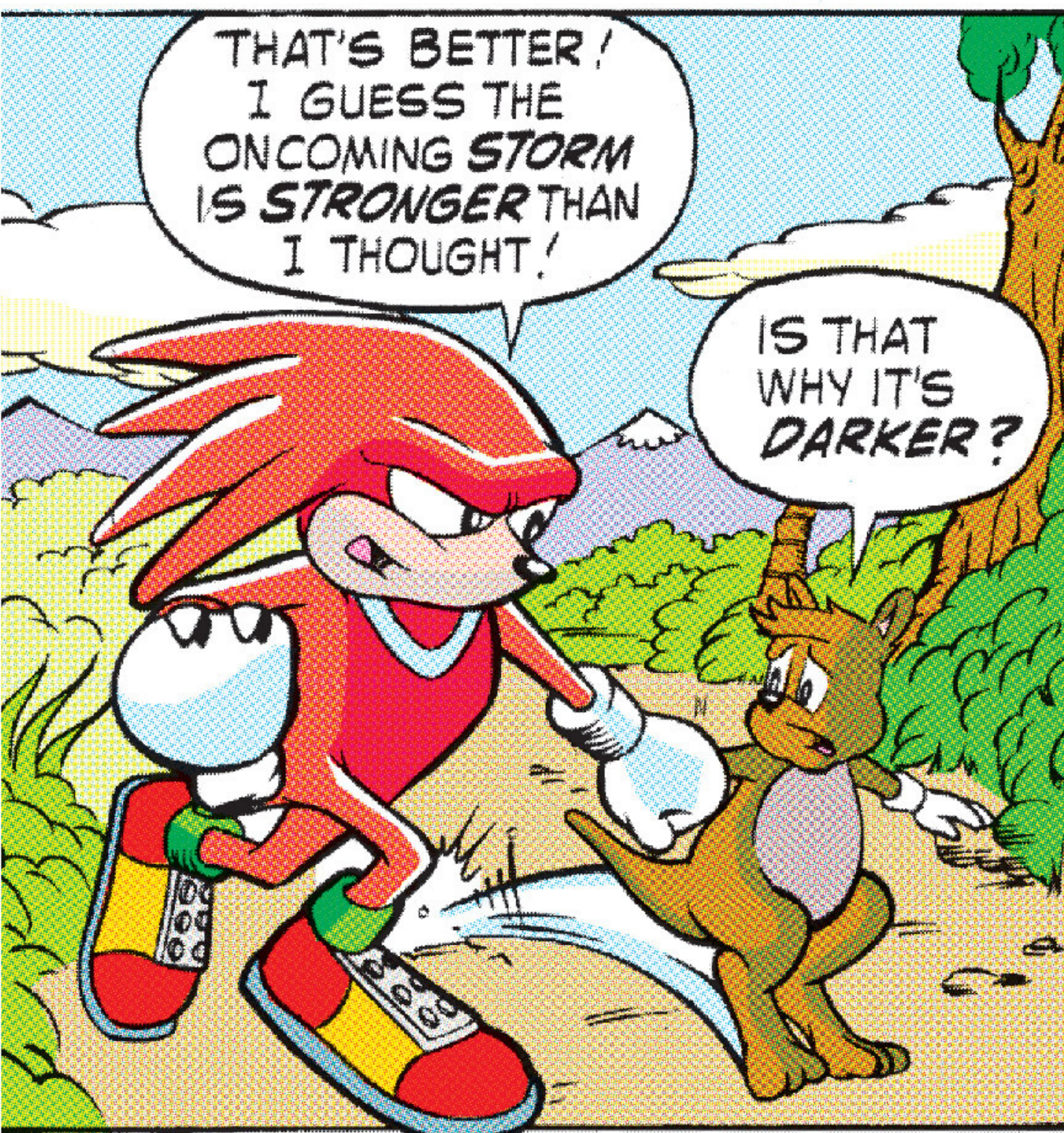
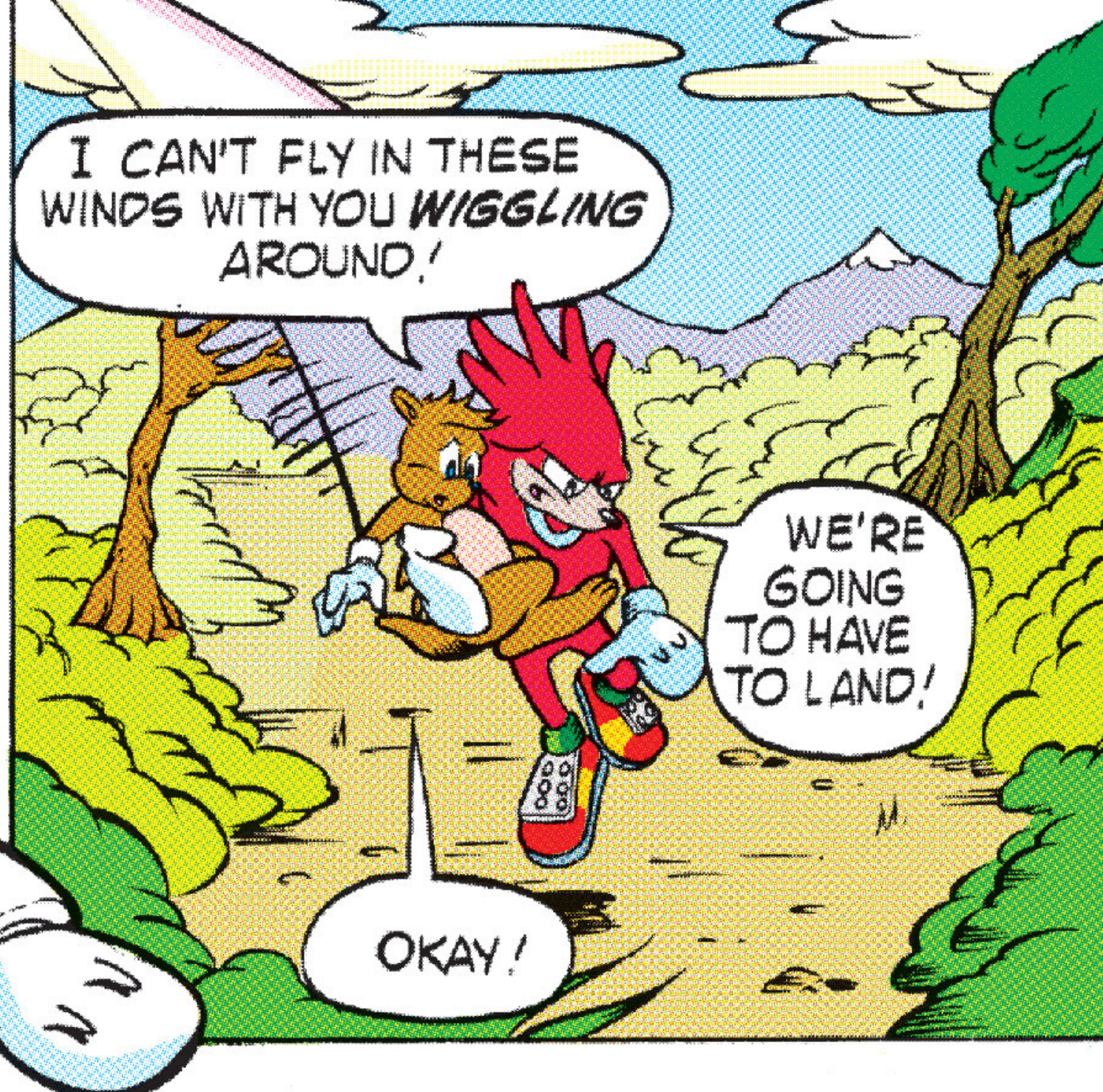
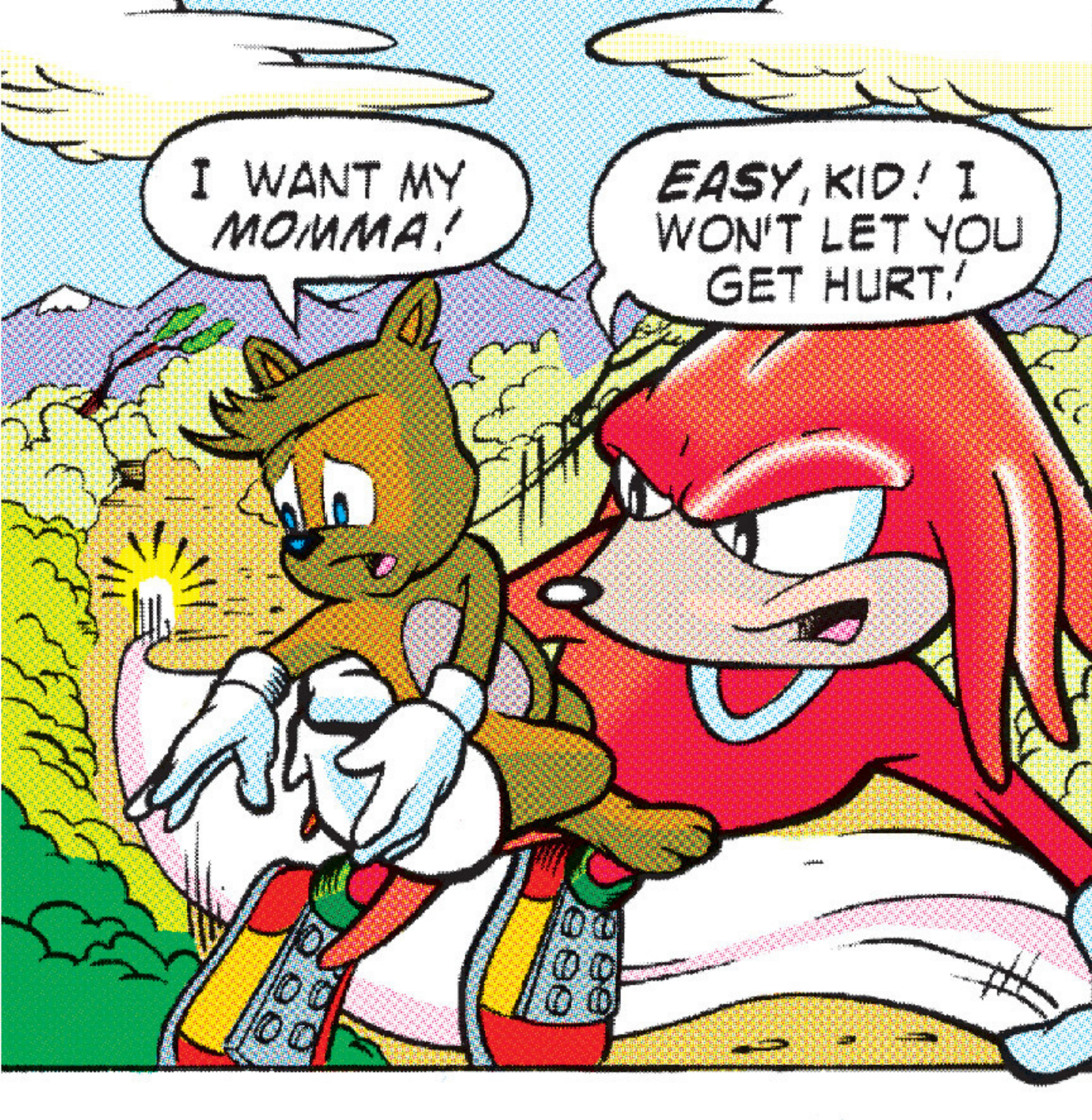


SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS  
**KNUCKLES**™

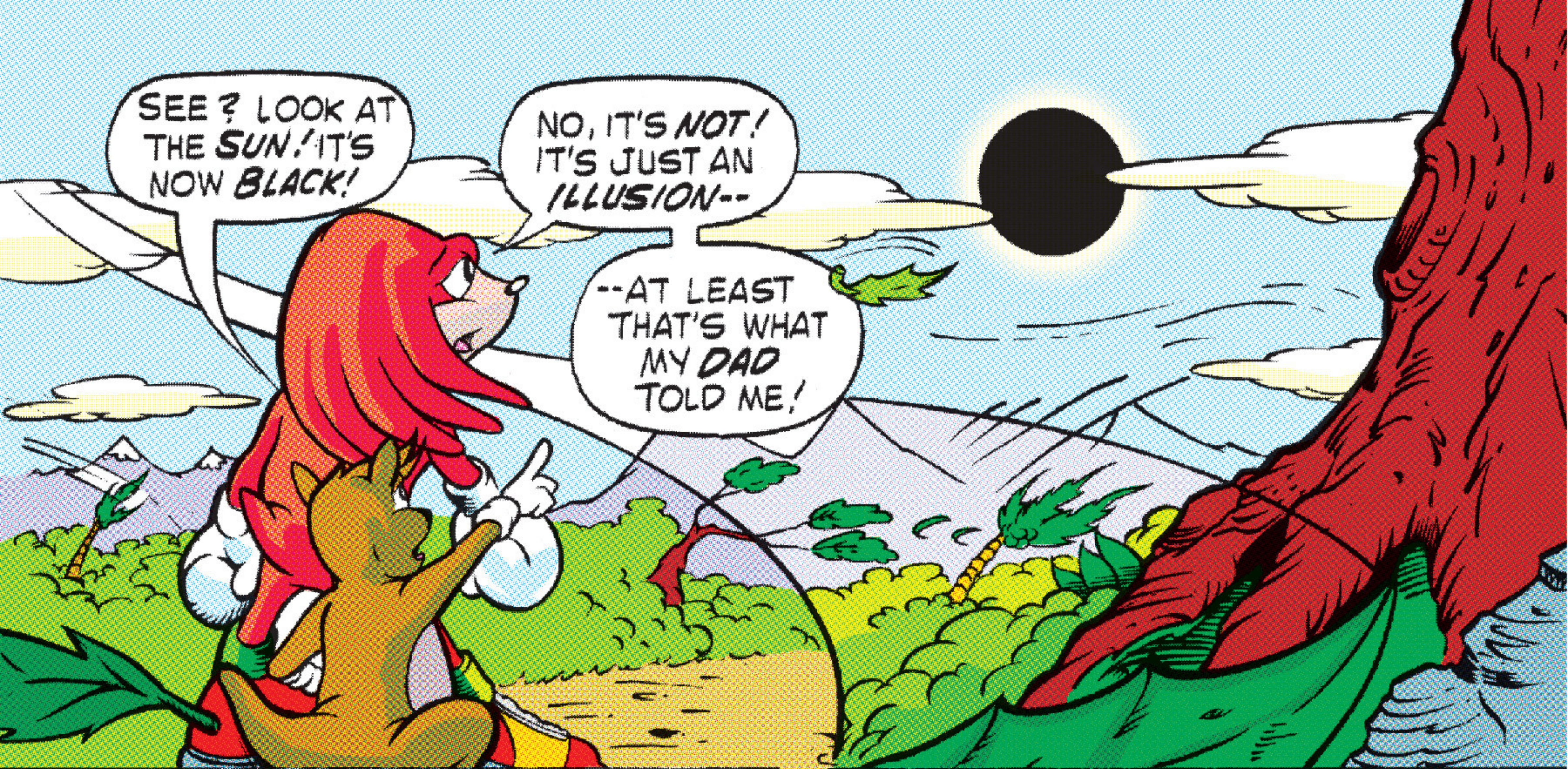
IN  
**LORD OF THE  
FLOATING ISLAND**







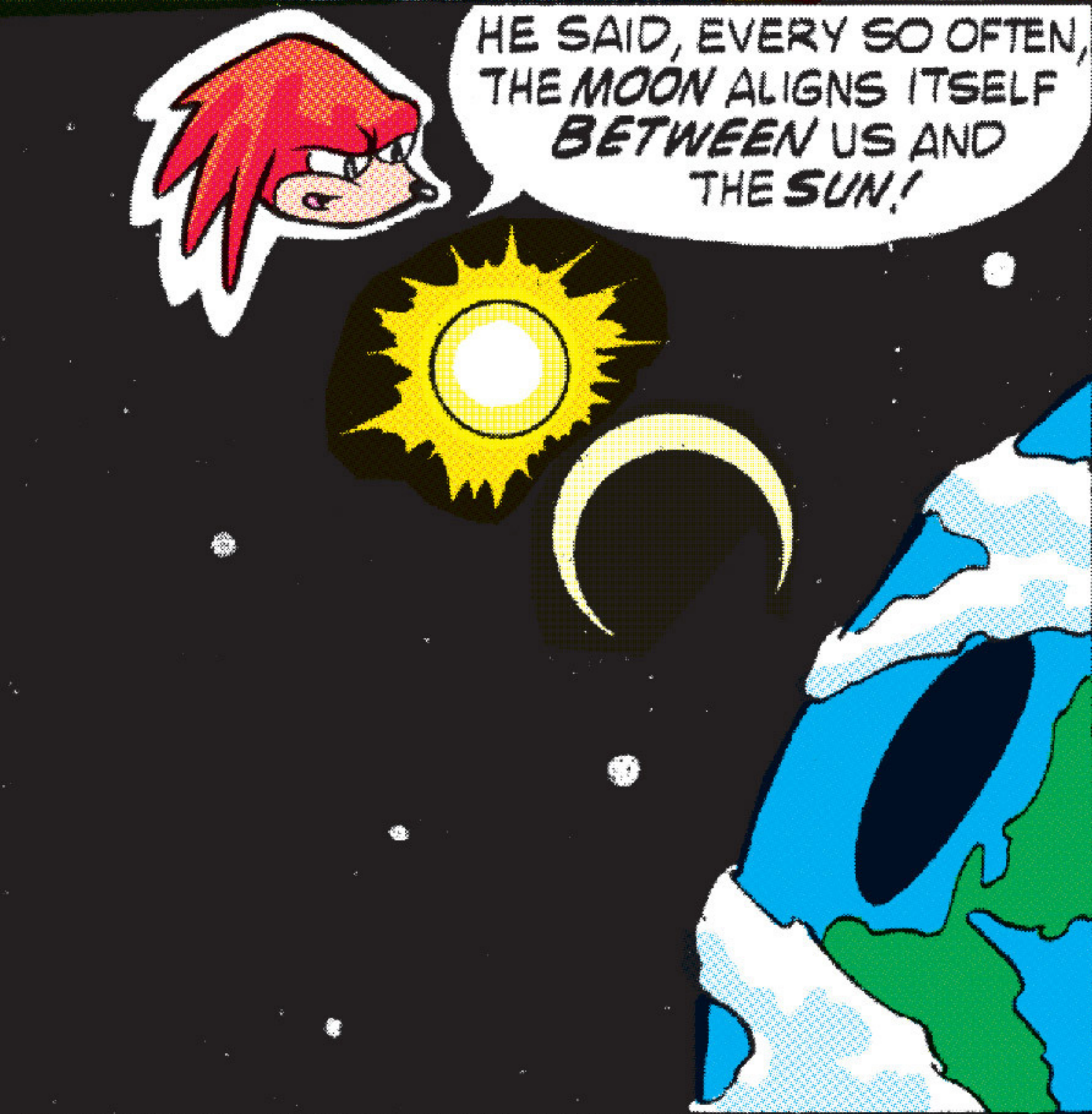




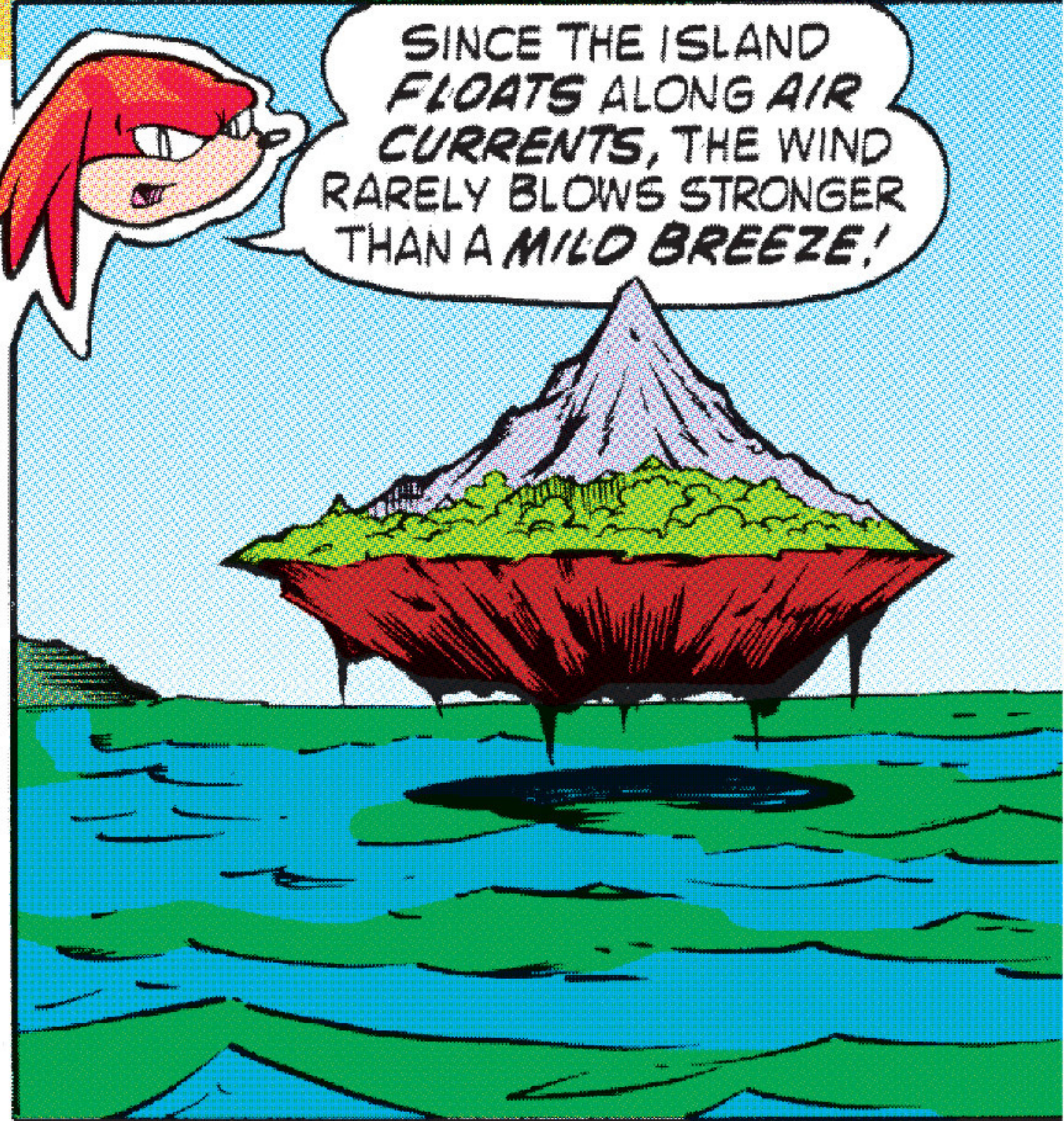
SEE ? LOOK AT THE **SUN** ! IT'S NOW **BLACK** !

NO, IT'S **NOT** ! IT'S JUST AN **ILLUSION** --

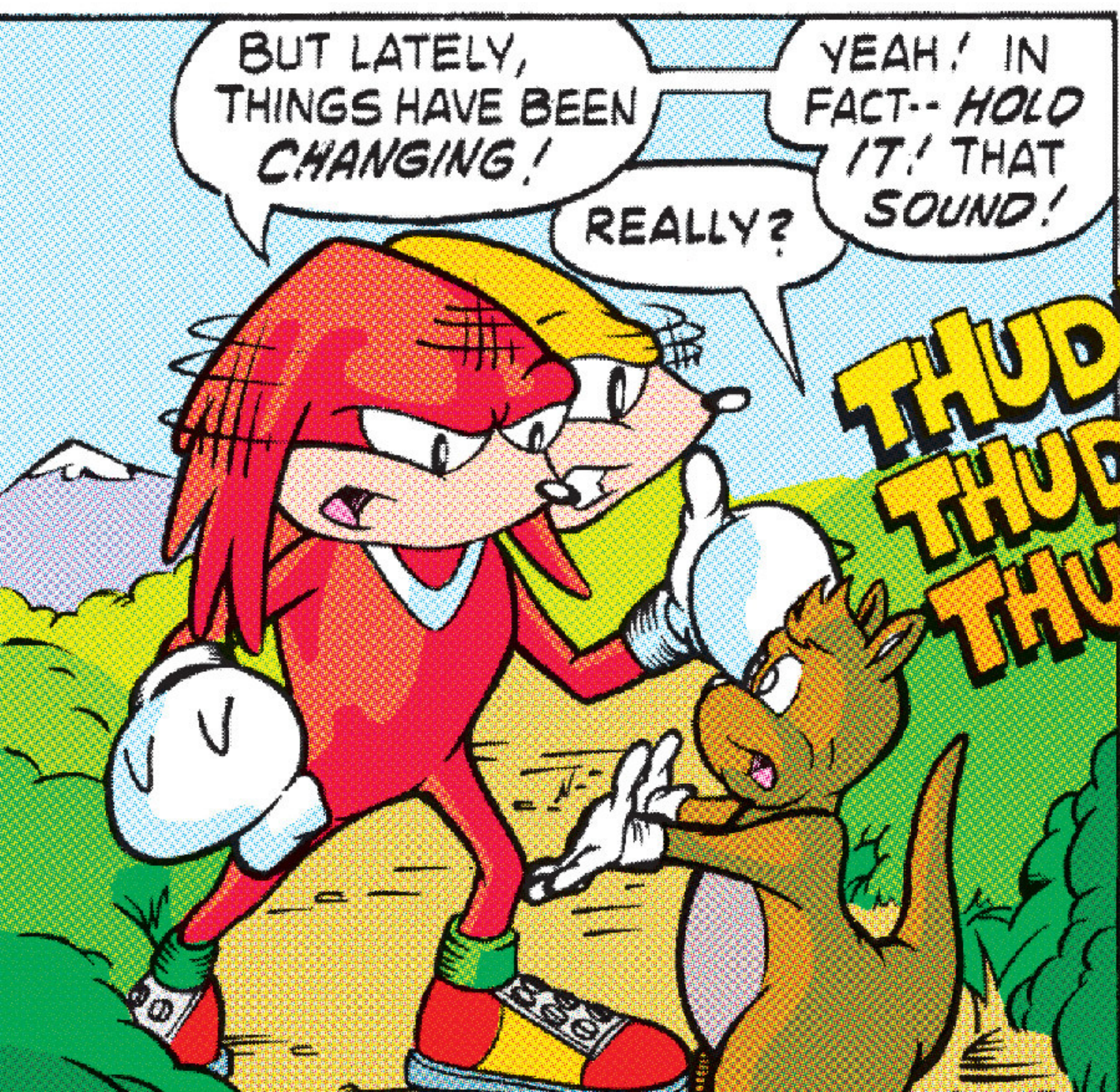
--AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT MY **DAD** TOLD ME !



HE SAID, EVERY SO OFTEN, THE **MOON** ALIGNS ITSELF **BETWEEN** US AND THE **SUN** !



SINCE THE ISLAND **FLOATS** ALONG **AIR CURRENTS**, THE WIND RARELY BLOWS STRONGER THAN A **MILD BREEZE** !



BUT LATELY, THINGS HAVE BEEN **CHANGING** !

REALLY ?

YEAH ! IN FACT -- **HOLD IT !** THAT **SOUND** !

**THUD !**  
**THUD !**  
**THUD !**



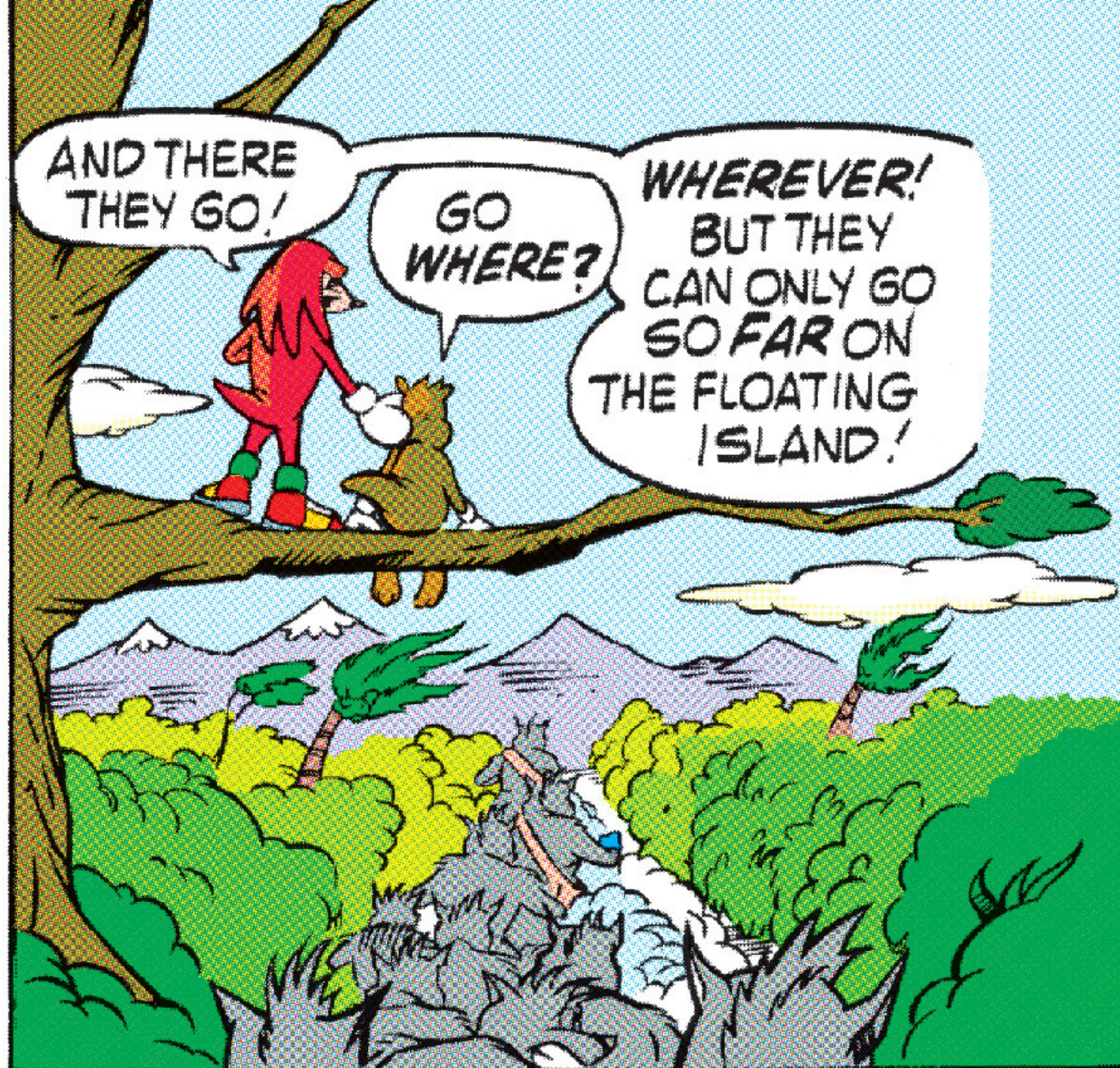
LET'S GET TO **SAFETY** ! IT'S A **THUNDERING** HERD OF **DINGOES** !





AREN'T THEY FRIENDLY?

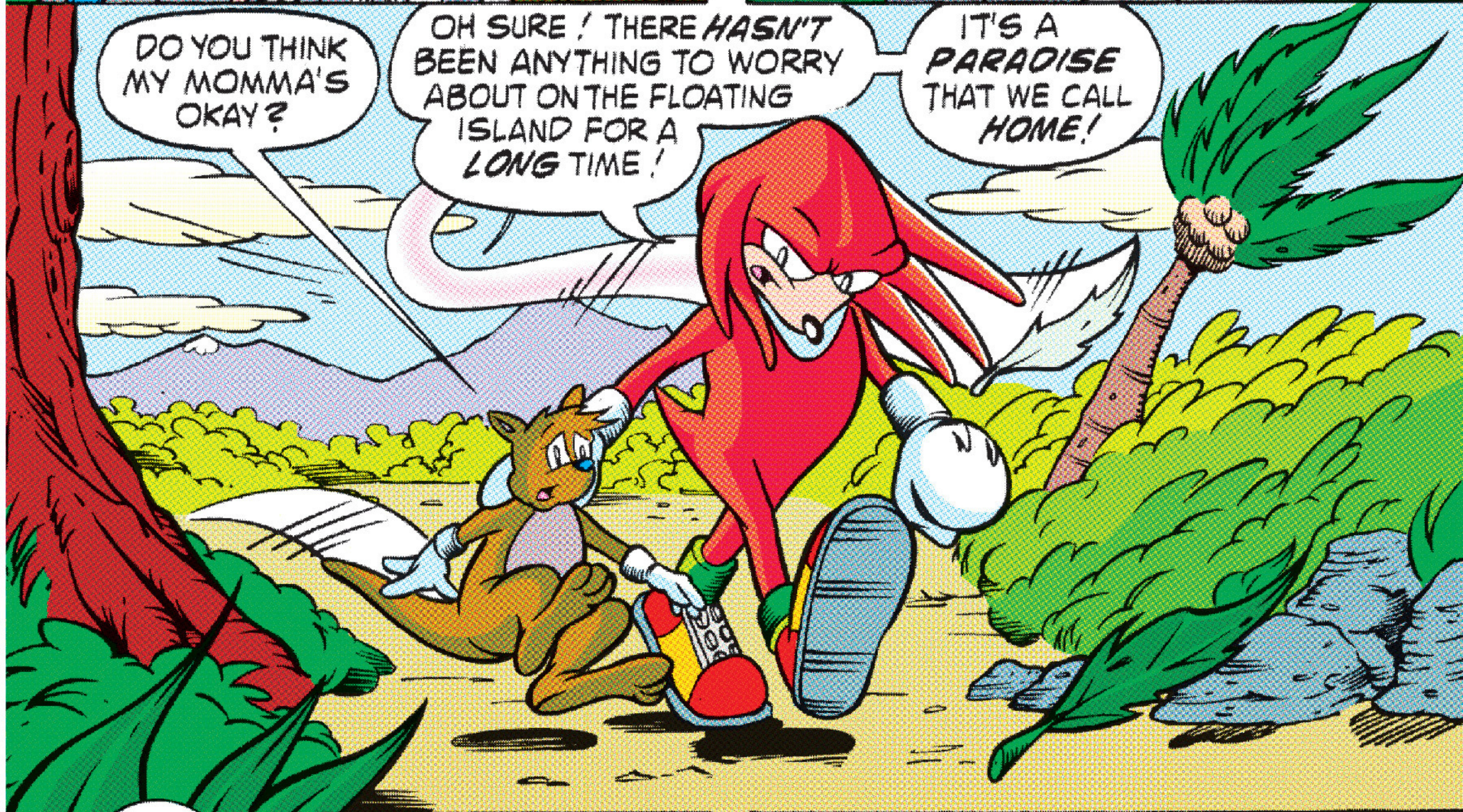
USUALLY, BUT THE WEATHER'S UPSETTING THEM!



AND THERE THEY GO!

GO WHERE?

WHEREVER! BUT THEY CAN ONLY GO SO FAR ON THE FLOATING ISLAND!



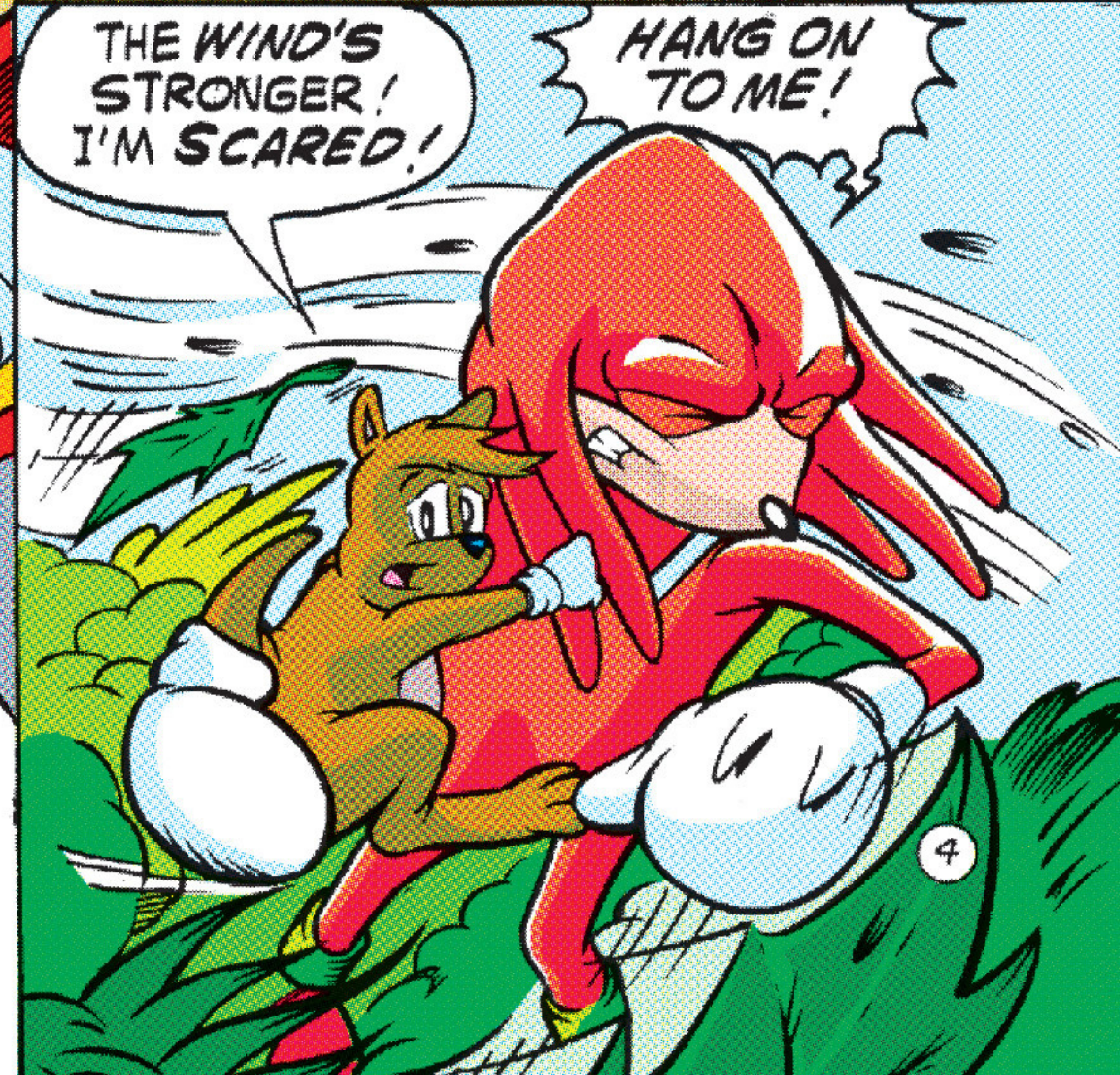
DO YOU THINK MY MOMMA'S OKAY?

OH SURE! THERE *HASN'T* BEEN ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ON THE FLOATING ISLAND FOR A LONG TIME!

IT'S A PARADISE THAT WE CALL HOME!



HOWEVER, WE SEEM TO KEEP GETTING VISITORS WHO'D LIKE TO CHANGE THAT!



THE WIND'S STRONGER! I'M SCARED!

HANG ON TO ME!



